

THE PINK

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Cherries in the
Premier - pg 4

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Richard Hill years



Superb in-depth coverage inside

HEADS WE WIN!

SAINTS secured a morale boosting second victory in the space of just a few days as they beat Swansea 3-1 at St Mary's.

Virgil van Dijk set the tone for the win with the opener after just 11 minutes, with Dusan Tadic making it 2-0 just nine minutes into the second half.

Sadio Mane added the third for Saints, with Gylfi Sigurdsson netting a late consolation from the penalty spot for Swansea.

The win was Saints' second Premier League victory of the campaign and lifted them into the top half of the table.



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Saints 3 Swansea City 1

Nine in just four days for goal-happy Saints



Goalscorer Sadio Mane leaps over a challenge.

Saints made it nine goals scored in the space of just four days as they secured their second league win of the season against Swansea.

Having hit MK Dons for a record equalling six in the Capital One Cup on Wednesday night, Saints backed it up an impressive 3-1 demolition of Swansea in the Premier League at St Mary's, writes ADAM LEITCH.

Virgil van Dijk, Sadio Mane and Dusan Tadic did the damage as Saints picked up three points that lifted them into the top half of the table ahead of next weekend's trip to Chelsea.

Gylfi Sigurdsson pulled one back for Swansea from the penalty spot late on.

Saints started the game brightly.

They knew Swansea were likely to sit fairly deep, be well organised and would try to frustrate Saints by keeping the ball.

However, Saints tried to counter that by pressing high and giving their opponents no time on the ball and it was definitely unsettling the Swans.

Try his luck

Sadio Mane was the first to try his luck with a curling shot from 20 yards that went over the bar.

It was Maarten Stekelen-

TEAM CHECK

● RYAN Bertrand made his first start of the season. The England left back had missed the opening stages of the campaign with a knee injury but made a sub appearance against MK Dons and came back into the side in place of Matt Targett. James Ward-Prowse got the nod to partner Victor Wanyama in the centre of midfield while it was Steven Davis, Sadio Mane and Dusan Tadic in the

attacking midfield roles. Graziano Pelle overcame a minor foot injury to return to the starting line-up. Saints: Stekelenburg, Cedric, Fonte, van Dijk, Bertrand, Wanyama, Ward-Prowse, S Davis, Mane, Tadic, Pelle. Subs: K Davis, Yoshida, Long, Rodriguez, Romeu, Martina, Juanmi. Swansea: Fabianski, Naughton, Williams, Fernandez, Taylor, Cork, Ki Sung-Yueng, Shelvey, Sigurdsson, Ayew, Gomis.

burg who had the first save to make though as on six minutes Jonjo Shelvey drive a fierce shot from 25 yards goalwards. The Saints stopper parried it away to Ki Sung-Yueng but he couldn't control the rebound and sliced well over.

Mane went agonisingly close two minutes later as Victor Wanyama won the ball and charged down the right. He squared inside to Pelle, who then found Mane in the area but his shot on the turn went just inches wide of the far post.

It didn't take long until Saints got the breakthrough though.

They won a left wing corner on 11 minutes which was whipped in by James Ward-Prowse. Virgil van Dijk made a darting run to the near post and flicked in a

header from a few yards out. Stekelenburg was in action again on 22 minutes, this time Ki with the low drive from 20 yards. The Saints keeper got down to his right and managed to get enough on it to divert it away.

Gylfi Sigurdsson hit a free kick from a similar distance in a central position that might have threatened had it not flicked off the top of the Saints wall.

Intensity drop

As the half wore on it was Swansea who were enjoying more of the ball.

Saints had let their initial intensity drop just slightly and it was enough to allow the Swans to get a foothold in the game, even if they were not creating much.

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Saints players after a goal against Swansea at St Mary's. Pictures by Stuart Martin.

On the flipside it was Saints who looked the more threatening on the break.

Mane tried another effort from long range which was well struck but straight down the middle and an easy save for Lukasz Fabianski.

When the half time whistle blew it was Saints who boasted a one goal advantage but with still all to play for in the second period.

Swansea made a double change at the break to try and change the direction of the game with Eder and Jefferson Montero coming on for Bafetimbi Gomis and former Saints man Jack Cork.

Saints again started on the front foot, James Ward-Prowse heading wide from a left wing cross in the opening stages of the second half.

And, just like the first half, they got the goal while they were on top.

Persistence

It owed much to persistence and a little bit of luck too.

Dusan Tadic ran on to a lofted pass coming in off the left wing and showed strength and power to bustle through.

He looked as though he was trying to square the ball across the face of the area from a tight angle near the left by-line, but Ki slid in to try and prevent it.

The ball deflected off the Swansea player's leg up and past Fabianski to double Saints' advantage.

It was 3-0 and virtually game over on 61 minutes.

Again it came from down the left.

Ryan Bertrand had pressed on from left back and squared to Graziano Pelle.

His first time right footed shot in the area was blocked by Ashley Williams but

straight to Mane 12 yards out. He took one touch to control and a second to drill a low right footed shot into the bottom corner.

Swansea boss Garry Monk declared his side's defeat "very disappointing."

"That's two away games, today and at Watford, where we have been well below our usual standards."

"It's not good enough from us and it's not good enough for me. We are making uncharacteristic decisions and individual errors. The goals came from individual errors and we got punished."

"They deserved to win but I don't think they played us off the park, it's down to us not being at the right standard. We've shown the levels we can reach this season and we have to be consistent."

● Alexis Sanchez's hat-trick saw Arsenal close the gap at the top of the Premier League after they came from behind at Leicester.

The Chilean starred as the Gunners moved to within three points of leaders Manchester United thanks to their 5-2 victory.

They also ended the Foxes' unbeaten start.

Koeman happy with victory

RONALD Koeman declared himself satisfied with three points against Swansea, but wasn't so happy with his team's performance.

Saints made in two wins and nine goals scored in just four days with a 3-1 victory over the Swans backing up their 6-0 demolition of MK Dons in the Capital One Cup.

While Koeman was understandably happy to see his side collect their second league win of the campaign, he was also frustrated with elements of the performance.

When asked whether he was satisfied with the afternoon, he said: "About the three points yes, about the result of course, but maybe it was the best game of the season clinical wise."

"We didn't create a lot of chances but we scored three times."

"But the performance what we can bring, what we expect, was not very good because we had a lot of mistakes in our ball possession, but the win is important."

"It was not the best performance of the season."

Koeman did not single out any players for criticism, but rather insisted he expected more of his side, particularly after they got a cushion in the game.

"Yes but ok we were prepared of the different system of Swansea and then you need more communication in the team," he said.

"I think they had some good chances close to the box, free shots, and we had to defend that much better than we did."

As well as the win there was another massive bright spot with Ryan Bertrand making his first start of the season after injury.

"Very good," reflected Koeman.

"In my opinion he was the best player on the pitch, and that's all the credit."

"No pre-season for three months out and playing like he wasn't away of the team and that was very good."

Stoke City 2 AFC Bournemouth 1



Callum Wilson is stretchered off at the Britannia Stadium.

Sub Diouf punishes Cherries

STOKE notched their first Barclays Premier League win of the season as substitute Mame Biram Diouf's late header saw them beat Bournemouth 2-1 at the Britannia Stadium.

The visitors suffered a major blow early on when their top scorer Callum Wilson was carried off on a stretcher, and with Eddie Howe's men still seemingly recovering from the shock, Jonathan Walters put Stoke ahead in the 32nd minute with a close-range finish.

Dan Gosling fired in an equaliser on 76 minutes but Diouf nodded home with seven minutes to go as Mark Hughes' side finally sealed a victory that takes them out of the relegation zone.

Stoke were the first to settle after the match got under way, although that was helped by Bournemouth being unsettled by what happened to Wilson.

The five-goal striker went to ground hurt in the eighth minute having appeared to twist his knee while under the attentions of Philipp Wollscheid.

He received treatment on the field before managing to walk off it - and shortly after, came back on.

That proved a bad decision as Wilson was almost immediately back down, his leg having buckled as he ran towards the ball.

He subsequently departed on a stretcher, replaced by Glenn Murray, to leave his team-mates looking a little shell-shocked, and Stoke appeared keen to take advantage.



DAN Gosling scores Cherries' goal at Stoke.

advantage as Walters tapped in from close range with clutch of Bournemouth players around him.

He subsequently departed on a stretcher, replaced by Glenn Murray, to leave his team-mates looking a little shell-shocked, and Stoke appeared keen to take advantage.

Artur Boruc was called upon to

deal with shots from Bojan Krkic and Glenn Whelan.

And after Matt Ritchie drilled into Jack Butland's arms at the other end, Stoke grabbed the lead when Marko Arnautovic did well to get around Simon Francis on the left and pull the ball back for Walters, who tapped in from close range with clutch of

Bournemouth players around him.

Cherries levelled when Marc Pugh struck from outside the box, the ball ricochetting to Gosling and he finished past Butland.

Butland then saved from Gosling as Bournemouth kept up the pressure, but soon after Diouf intervened with his third goal of the season.

New-look Brock's fine start

BROCKENHURST are much changed from the all-conquering side which lifted the AOC British Colleges Cup crown at Walsall last April.

But their new look squad has certainly made a positive start in the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League, writes MIKE VIMPA-NY.

They kicked off with a 9-0 rout of South Downs and followed it up with a last gasp 3-2 victory over Barton Peveril in midweek.

Early strikes by the lively Dom Paneasar-Dower (penalty) and Grant Woodall gave Brock the impetus against BP, who were handicapped by the absence of the bulk of their back four and their regular goalkeeper under-going shoulder surgery.

Harvey Slade caught the eye for Brock, who looked to be headed for a comfortable win until Lewis Wild scored twice in quick succession to make it 2-2.

Woodall was inches wide for Brock, while Sam Morris thought he had won it for Barton Peveril, only to have his 'winner' disallowed.

In the last minute Brock broke down the right and Barney Turner stabled home the decisive 3-2 goal.

Dom Paneasar-Dower, Elliot Pearce Eavis, Grant Woodall and Harry McGrath all scored doubles in the 9-0 mauling of South Downs.

Sparsholt began with a 2-0 win at Andover.

In the B Division, Portsmouth nailed Havant 6-0, with Richard Taunton edging out St Vincent 4-3.

Wednesday's fixtures:
A Division - Brockenhurst v Andover, Farnborough v Sparsholt, Peter Symonds v Itchen, South Downs v Barton Peveril.
B Division - Bournemouth v Havant, Portsmouth v Chichester, Poole Grammar v St Vincent.

● Southampton Boys opened their Pickford Shield challenge with a comfortable 4-0 win over Poole & East Dorset, who wasted a penalty when they were 1-0 down and went on to concede three more goals.

Moses Tekel, Kelvin Lichowe, Harry Jones and Calvin Esfondiari scored for Southampton.

Non league FOOTBALL



FA Cup agony as City are denied by dramatic leveller

10-man visitors force replay with late heartbreaker

WINCHESTER City suffered 89th minute heartbreak this afternoon as ten-man Maidenhead United hit back to salvage a 1-1 FA Cup second qualifying round draw at the Denplan City Ground.

United's former Eastleigh striker Ben Wright had the first attempt on goal, dipping an effort just over after Jamie Thoroughgood had given away a cheap free kick in a dangerous position, writes WENDY GEE.

Winchester, though, looked far from over-awed by their two league higher visitors and let their passing do the talking on 13 minutes, almost forcing a goal.

First Adam Roberts was denied by the keeper's legs following a back-heal by Zach Glasspool, then visiting keeper Carl Pentney had to make a tumbling save at his near post from Adam Tomasso.

The tie took an unexpected twist on 22 minutes when the Magpies' ex-Basingstoke forward Tarpey was red-carded for barging into Micky Hubbard late and leaving the City mid-fielder badly winded.

Hubbard continued after treatment, the ten men of Maidenhead regrouped and City keeper Brendan Norris was called on to save from Josh Huggins at his near post.

Winchester had a couple of failed penalty appeals on Warren Bentley and Glasspool before the breakthrough came on the half-hour.

Dan Cann's low delivery from the left squirmed through the Magpies' defence and, after having his initial effort blocked, GLASSPOOL buried the ball at the second attempt.

On 38 minutes Wright came his closest yet to scoring, wrong-footing his marker and bending a shot against the foot of the upright which bounced back into Norris's grateful grasp.

Half-time:

Winchester City 1
Maidenhead Utd 0

Even with ten men, Maidenhead proved a handful at the start of the second half with Pritchard lashing wide from a good position before Huggins' deflected effort span away for a corner.

They then went close with a header from Pritchard's free kick and, with just half an hour to keep themselves in the tie, threw on subs Gavin James and Sam Barratt to put some added spark into attack.

But it was Winchester who had a flurry of chances – the majority falling to Cann who had moved in to spearhead the attack alongside Bentley after goal-scorer Glasspool had



Zach Glasspool fires Winchester City ahead.



Warren Bentley takes a tumble. Pictures by Rachel Adams.

gone off injured.

Cann thumped one effort across the face of goal and rifled another one over.

Sub Matt Benham then drew a top drawer save from Pentney with a cracking strike from distance, but the ball seemed magnetically drawn

to Cann, who went his closest yet on 73 minutes, turning deftly on the right and unleashing a curling shot which was superbly dealt with by Pentney.

With time ticking down, City failed to deal with Wright's well-placed corner and sub JAMES forced the ball

home from close range.

The replay is at York Road on Tuesday night.

Result:

WINCHESTER CITY 1
MAIDENHEAD UTD 1

Ben the late hero

BEN Strevens was the match-winning hero as Eastleigh launched their post-Richard Hill era in spectacular style, by inflicting a first home defeat of the season on high-flying Wrexham.

Wes York and Sean Newton had hit back for the hosts' after goals from Jai Reason and Andy Drury put caretaker boss Chris Todd's team 2-0 ahead, writes PAUL McNAMARA.

Then, with three minutes to play and the high-flying Welsh team seemingly in the ascendancy, Strevens met Joe Partington's terrific right-wing delivery, to head past home keeper Cameron Belford and secure a stunning victory for his team.

Prior to Reason's strike it had been all Wrexham. York and Robbie Evans had the pick of the early chances, but both Dragons men were denied by Spitfires stopper Lewis Noice.

On 20 minutes, Eastleigh dished out a sucker punch.

Lee Cook teed up Reason, whose drilled shot caught a heavy deflection off Jamal Fyfield, who would be dismissed in stoppage time, on its way into the bottom left corner of goal.

Manny Smith then headed inexplicably off-target from six-yards, so adding to the hosts' chagrin five minutes before the break, when Drury beautifully rounded off a stunning Eastleigh counter.

Cook fed the midfielder 25-yards from goal, leaving him to unleash a sumptuous first-time strike that dipped late, leaving Belford helpless.

The action came to the boil on 54 minutes, when Connor Jennings slipped a pass through for York to slide a finish under Noice to halve the hosts' deficit.

Voss had a 25-yard strike rattle the upright, with Noice then required to keep out substitute Lee Fowler's free-kick.

The home comeback was complete on 75 minutes, however, as Newton steamed onto Smith's deep right-wing cross, to head beyond Noice.

The win ended Eastleigh's five-game league run without a victory.



Ben Strevens

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2015/16



2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

JULY

Thurs 30 Vitesse (EL) .....H	W 3-0	Stekelenburg	Yoshida	Fonte	Soares	Targett	S Davis	Tadic+1	Wanyama	Clasie*	Mane=	Pelle1	Long+1	Juanmi*	Reed=
Thurs 6 Vitesse (EL) .....A	W 2-0	Stekelenburg	Yoshida	Fonte	Martina	Caulker	S Davis=	Tadic+	Wanyama	Ward-Prowse	Mane	Pelle*1	Jaunmi+	Rodriguez*	Reed=
Sun 9 Newcastle .....A	D 2-2	Stekelenburg	Targett	Fonte	Soares+	Yoshida	S Davis	Rodriguez*	Wanyama	Tadic	Mane	Pelle1	Martina+	Long*1	
Sat 15 Everton .....H	L 0-3	Stekelenburg	Soares	Fonte	Targett	Yoshida	S Davis=	Long*	Wanyama	Tadic+	Mane	Pelle	Romeu+	Rodriguez*	W-Prowse=
Thurs 20 Midtjylland (EL) .....H	D 1-1	Stekelenburg	Caulker	Fonte	Targett	Yoshida	Romeu	Ward-Prowse*	Wanyama	Rodriguez+1	Mane	Pelle	Long+	Juanmi*	
Sun 23 Watford .....A	D 0-0	Stekelenburg	Caulker	Fonte	Targett	Yoshida	Romeu	S Davis*	Wanyama	Soares	Mane+	Pelle=	Long+	W-Prowse*	Rodriguez=
Thurs 27 Midtjylland (EL) .....A	L 0-1	Stekelenburg	Caulker+	Fonte	Targett	Yoshida	Romeu	S Davis=	Martina	Ward-Prowse	Rodriguez*	Pelle	Tadic+	Long*	Juanmi=
Sun 30 Norwich (1.30pm) ...H	W 3-0	Stekelenburg	Soares+	Fonte	Targett	Yoshida	Romeu	S Davis+	Tadic2	Ward-Prowse	Mane=	Pelle1	Rodriguez+	Martina*	Juanmi=

SEPTEMBER

Sat 12 WBA (3pm) .....A	D 0-0	Stekelenburg	Soares*	Fonte	Targett	Van Dijk	Rodriguez+	Wanyama	Tadic	Ward-Prowse	S Davis	Pelle	Mane+ Martina+	Yoshida* S Davis*	Long=
Sun 20 Man Utd (4pm) .....H	L 2-3	Stekelenburg	Yoshida	Fonte	Targett+	Van Dijk	Wanyama	Romeu*	Tadic	W-Prowse=	Mane	Pelle2			
Tues 23 MK Dons (LC 3rd) .....A	W 6-0	Stekelenburg	Soares	Fonte	Targett+	Van Dijk=	S Davis	Romeu	Rodriguez2	Jaunmi	Mane2*	Long2	Bertrand+	Ramirez*	Yoshida=

OCTOBER

Sat 3 Chelsea (5.30pm) .....A															
Sat 17 Leicester (3pm) .....H															
Sun 25 Liverpool (4.15pm) .....A															

NOVEMBER

Sun 1 AFC Bournemouth (4pm) .....H															
Sat 7 Sunderland (3pm) .....A															
Sat 21 Stoke (3pm) .....H															
Sat 28 Man City (3pm) .....A															

DECEMBER

Sat 5 Aston Villa (3pm) .....H															
Sat 12 Crystal Palace (3pm) .....A															
Sat 19 Tottenham (3pm) .....H															

JANUARY

Sat 2 Norwich City (3pm) .....A															
Wed 13 Watford (7.45pm) .....H															
Sat 16 WBA (3pm) .....H															

FEBRUARY

Tues 2 Arsenal (7.45pm) .....A															
Sat 6 West Ham (3pm) .....H															
Sat 13 Swansea (3pm) .....A															

MARCH

Tues 1 AFC Bournemouth (7.45pm)A															
Sat 5 Sunderland (3pm) .....H															
Sat 12 Stoke (3pm) .....A															
Sat 19 Liverpool (3pm) .....H															

APRIL

Sat 2 Leicester (3pm) .....A															
Sat 9 Newcastle (3pm) .....H															
Sat 16 Everton (3pm) .....A															
Sat 23 Aston Villa (3pm) .....A															

Sat 30 Manchester City (3pm) .....H															
May															

Sat 7 Tottenham (3pm) .....A															
Sun 15 Crystal Palace (3pm) ....H															



There were big smiles on and off the field at MK Dons on Wednesday and Saints sailed into the last 16 of the League Cup.

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
FRASER FORSTER	30	0	7	0	37	0	JASON MCCARTHY	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
KELVIN DAVIS	267(2)	0	31	0	298(2)	0	STEVEN CAULKER	1	0	3	0	4	0
M STEKELENBURG	2	0	1	0	11	0	STEVEN DAVIS	87(10)	4	15(2)	2	2102(22)	6
PAOLO GAZZANIGA	18(1)	0	2	0	20(1)	0	HARRISON REED	5(8)	0	2(5)	0	7(13)	0
MAYA YOSHIDA	61(7)	2	13(1)	1	74(8)	2	VICTOR WANYAMA	50(10)	3	10	0	60(10)	3
JOSE FONTE	209(1)	13	13(4)	0	216(5)	13	LLOYD ISGROVE	0(1)	0	2(3)	0	2(4)	0
CEDRIC SOARES	5	0	2	0	7	0	SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0(1)	0	0(1)	0
RYAN BETRAND	34	2	4(2)	0	38(2)	2	JORDY CLASIE	0	0	1	0	1	0
FLORIN GARDOS	5(6)	0	6	0	11(6)	0	JAMES WARD-Prowse	39(40)	1	16(1)	1	55(41)	2
MATT TARGETT	9(3)	0	9(1)	0	18(4)	0	DOMINIC GAPE	0(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0
CUCO MARTINA	0(3)	0	2	0	2(3)	0	DUSAN TADIC	29(7)	6	7(2)	2	36(9)	8

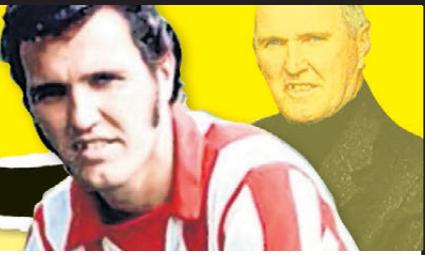
KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's

EXCLUSIVE

column on all things football



Needless football kits are ruining the game

A FOOTBALL shirt can evoke many feelings in a football fan.

The colours and emblems of your chosen team are carefully preserved and passed down from generation to generation.

At least they used to be.

Now teams have at least three kits, the second and third of which are normally purple or fluorescent green, or both in the case of Swansea City's new away effort.

There is an over-abundance of needless alternate kits in the Premier League, and it's ruining football.

Tasteless

For a young football supporter, there is little more enjoyable than going down to your local sports store to pick up your team's new kit before the new season.

However, the current choice of strips are tasteless and adorned with unnecessary advertising, which is anything but subliminal.

It is about time that the hierarchy of football stopped grabbing the pennies of supporters and went back to its roots.

In the good old days, a team would have one home kit and one away kit for emergencies.

Even for an away match a team would wear their home kit unless there was a severe kit clash.

Exploit

Now Premier League teams are contracted to wear their away kits for virtually every away game.

What's worse is that these second and third kits are designed without the slightest consideration of the heritage of the team the strip is intended for.

At the very heart of this is always a big corporate brand, looking to exploit young boys and girls across the country that just want to support the team they love.

Let's take the example of Norwich City.

This season they have, like most teams in the Premier League, released three different kits.

However, all three of their kits are green and yellow.

There is no other team in the Premier League that wears the colours green and yellow.

Even worse than this is Newcastle United's new home kit design.

This year their home shirt features blue lines as well as the traditional black and white on the front.

I can only assume the blue is intended to match the colours of club sponsor Wonga. Oh the irony.

It seems that the worst teams suffer from



Newcastle's new home shirt featuring some bits of blue amid the traditional black and white stripes.

the worst kit designs.

Newcastle's new home shirt is the equivalent of putting racing stripes on a clapped out Peugeot 206 in an attempt to make it go faster.

And there are many more like it in the Premier League this season.

Despite this, I would still rather watch Newcastle United play Manchester United in their home strip rather than their away strip.

Unfortunately this was not the case when the two sides met earlier this season.

When I think back to previous encounters between these two sides, their kits stand out in my mind.

Football thrives on nostalgia, and the black and white stripes of a Newcastle shirt are a wonderful reminiscence for every football fan, and an important part of Newcastle's culture.

If we don't act quickly football fans across

the world are in danger of supporting a different version of their team.

Most Premier League stadiums are associated with the sponsor of a club rather than the name of a team, and it's not an exaggeration to predict that one day we'll be cheering Nike FC or Wonga United.

Until that day comes we should cherish the few good kits we have or treasure the old classics for a trip down memory lane.

Adam Rant



The week's big talking points
with ADAM LEITCH

A sport? This is a bridge way too far

Card game row seems fun but has major flipside

IF THERE is one emotive topic Adam Rant is always conscious to avoid getting drawn into it's debates over what is and what isn't a sport.

Well, when the Ranty one says he avoids getting drawn in, that of course means he takes the moral high ground for a few minutes and then gets so worked up he has to chime in with his views.

Darts is the one over which he has spent the most time debating down the years.

Yes, clearly a sport. No doubt about it.

It has a physical side to it, even if you do not need to be fit to play it, and there is the competitive edge that a sport must have.

To say darts is not a sport would be akin to saying golf is not a sport.

Really they are not all that dissimilar in that it is a swing of an arm, a very precise swing of the arm, to try and propel something forward towards a small target, and you do not have to be very physically fit to play it.

Amateur golfers are often the type of people who look down on darts by the way, so be sure to wind up any you happen to meet by telling them they are just snobs if they cannot see why the comparison bears close inspection.

This week there has been a right old rumpus though, of the sort that Adam Rant didn't envisage himself having to ever wade in on. That is whether bridge is a sport.

Just for the record that is the card game bridge.

Yes, the game of cards bridge.

The game bridge.

Game.

Sport the key word.

Now card games are fun, and some are mentally taxing. No doubt bridge falls into that category.

But a sport? Not a chance.

Adam Rant likes Monopoly but that's not a sport. Chess appears in the sports section of papers sometimes, but it's not really clear why that is the case.

Bridge has been turned down as being a sport, rightly, but representatives have been given leave to appeal the decision.

While this may seem a somewhat trivial debate, it could actually have far reaching consequences.

If bridge is deemed a sport then



Golf is clearly a sport, in the same way that darts is, but bridge is not

they can potentially get money from various organisations that fund this sector in the UK.

That would then take away from the kind of pursuits that get people outdoors, keep them fit and away

from being a part of the obesity crisis that exists in this country.

It is not a stretch to say that if this door is opened then Scrabble will have to be deemed a sport. Scrabble for goodness sake.

What next – Countdown in the 2024 Olympics?

Actually, that would be funny. Anyway it's not a sport.

Not sure I managed to avoid the debate all that well. Again.

It's been a great ride

IT SEEMED like it was almost too good a night to be true for Saints but what a scintillating reminder of just how far they have come in such as short space of time as they smashed MK Dons 6-0.

For a moment leave aside the scoreline on the night – the Dons were utterly woeful, and didn't much seem like they cared about getting through judging by their manager's pre-match comments.

But the style in which Saints played, and to underline the depth of their squad, was stunning.

For those who can remember Saints having to battle back to beat MK Dons in the league just a handful of years ago, it was a real marker of where they have moved on to.

To see them taking the cup competitions so seriously in itself is a joy.

For a club like Saints it is the right way to go about things.

Even if this is not to be their year, if they continue to take this approach they will reach another major final before too long. What an exciting prospect that is.



Ronald Koeman
Football's fragility

FOOTBALLERS don't do too badly for money in the Premier League, but the whole Luke Shaw situation has really debunked the theory that players should turn down big moves for the sake of their development.

Shaw's injuries are serious, and while we hope he comes back as good as before, we cannot be sure he will.

It underlined what a short career it really can be.

Shaw took his move to Manchester United when he had the chance, and no matter what has a contract that guarantees him and his family enough cash they will never have to think about money again.

On top of that he had the chance to play for arguably the world's biggest club.

It's hard to argue with that.

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT



Wonderful League Cup victory over Championship opposition shows Saints' Wembley dream



THE League Cup tie against AFC Franchise couldn't have come at a better time.

A disappointing, yet not completely without hope defeat against Manchester United left Saints somewhat hanging on a limb.

Defeat or a draw would have sent the doomsayers into overdrive and Saints would have found themselves in a bit of a hole from which it would have been difficult to get out of.

Instead, Ronald Koeman sent a strong side to Milton Keynes and as such sent out a strong message to the fans.

Any cup is worth winning.

Within hours of Tottenham losing to Arsenal, my Spurs supporting friends were posting on social media about how not fussed they were at going out early in a 'Mickey Mouse' trophy.

That would be the same Mickey Mouse trophy that is the only bit of silverware they've won in the last 20 years, I take it?

For Saints to not only take a full strength side, play what is very much our second choice strike team and score six goals is immensely satisfying.

With Pelle missing, the emphasis was very much on Jay Rodriguez and Shane Long and they didn't disappoint.

Saints coasted past AFC Franchise in style and, with 20 shots to four, dominated a very pedestrian Championship side.

It gives Koeman's team a real chance of progressing in the tournament.

I can't state enough how important the 'smaller' cups are to clubs like Saints and, ironically enough, Tottenham.

The chances of clubs like ours reaching the FA Cup final are almost once in a generation, winning it is even rarer.

To win it you either need to field a team you can't afford, as Portsmouth did or luck out.

For clubs like Spurs to think they have what it takes to reach the Champions League is even more deluded.

The Europa League and the League Cup are as good as it gets for us and the sooner clubs like ours take it seriously, the better.

The return to the Southampton



Sadio Mane scores in the League Cup romp at MK Dons.



Shane Long celebrates one of his two goals at MK Dons

fold of Gaston Ramirez raises more questions than answers.

Ramirez is an enigma.

The cynic in me says that if the player couldn't shine whilst on loan at Hull last season then what

can he offer Saints now?

The optimist in me says that we have a habit of picking up players that have underachieved at their former clubs and have been given a new lease of life at the club.

Why should that be any different for a player coming back to St Mary's?

Koeman obviously sees something in him.

"He's part of the squad, training

well, well disciplined and not complaining. I admire that," the Saints manager is quoted as saying.

Whilst he has been disappointing to say the least, the potential has always been there.

If Koeman can get Ramirez firing on all cylinders, then he's effectively a whole new signing.

Give him a chance and see if the Dutch master can bring something out of him.

Defeat against Manchester United and an emphatic win against AFC Franchise sent the internet into a chaotic, perfect storm of conflicting opinions.

The glass half empty brigade saw defeat against a side worth hundreds of millions as a surefire sign we're heading for a relegation battle.

Win against AFC Franchise and the glass half full brigade were convinced we're world beaters again.

The harsh truth is that, in my own humble opinion, Saints will do well to achieve top ten this season. You can't lose first team talent season after season and not feel the effects.

And with Nathaniel Clyne and Toby Alderweireld gone and Fraser Forster injured and out for the long term, you cannot, simply cannot, expect Saints to maintain the sort of impetus they had last season.

It's just not possible.

If you can take that in, digest it and accept it then this season will a far more enjoyable experience for you.

We will lose, we will win and as long as when we do lose we can hold our heads up high, knowing we did all we could, then what more can you ask?

In closing, dear Saints fan, don't take every defeat to heart, don't take every Tottenham or Liverpool win to heart.

They're just minor irritations and if, like me, you have plastic Spurs or Liverpool fans goading you at every step, just remind them that there was a time when they concentrated on winning trophies rather than annoying fans of the giant powerhouse that is Southampton FC.

Nothing makes them look more pathetic than trying to goad Saints fans.

There was a time when their attentions were turned towards the likes of Manchester United or Everton, or Arsenal.. now they're watching us as we catch them up.

Swans face Saints but

SAINTS will welcome Swansea City to St Mary's this weekend.

Here, *Kurtis Robinson* looks back at previous clashes between the two clubs on the south coast.

September 4, 1946: Saints 4 Swansea 0 (Division 2)

A Doug McGibbon hat-trick and a Bobby Veck header helped the Saints ease past Swansea at The Dell in the club's first post-war meeting.

The hosts were 3-0 up before half-time in their league opener before McGibbon completed his hat-trick in the 53rd minute.

Rallied

January 14, 1950: Saints 1 Swansea 2 (Division 2)

Swansea completed the double, running out 2-1 winners at The Dell.

Charlie Wayman, Saints' top scorer that term, opened the scoring from close range in the 32nd minute. Swansea rallied in the second-half through Billy Lucas in the 58th minute, and Welsh legend Ivor Allchurch in the 78th.

September 23, 1950: Saints 2 Swansea 1 (Division 2)

Eric Day opened the scoring for Southampton in the first minute.

Howarth equalised in the 31st and Eddie Brown grabbed an undeserved winner in the 82nd minute to give Saints their first win over Swansea in four years.

November 17, 1951: Saints 3 Swansea 2 (Division 2)

Saints prevailed in a tough encounter on a heavy pitch at The Dell.

Billy Lucas put the visitors ahead after nine minutes, before Frank Dudley equalised three minutes later.

Winner

Saints then went ahead from an Eric Day goal before Lucas scored again five minutes later.

Jack Edwards grabbed the winner in the 75th minute.

March 14, 1953: Saints 1 Swansea 4 (Division 2)

Swansea went 2-0 up within five minutes with goals from Terry Medwin and Ivor Allchurch.

Frank Dudley managed to pull one just before half-time but Swans put the game to bed with two goals in two minutes in the second-half from Cliff Jones and Harry Griffiths.

Saints would ultimately be relegated from Division 2 at the end of the season.

November 26, 1960: Saints 5 Swansea 0 (Division 2)

Terry Paine starred in the first meeting between the teams in seven years, being involved in all five goals.

First, he set up Tommy Mulgrew in the 53rd minute, before scoring himself seven minutes later.

He quickly added another just a minute after that before setting up Mulgrew for the



Mick Channon in action during Saints' First Division win at The Dell in 1981.



Nathan Dyer runs at Steven Davis during Saints' 2-0 win in October 2013.

fourth goal.

John Sydenham scored the fifth with a minute to go from a Paine pass.

September 2, 1961: Saints 5 Swansea 1 (Division 2)

Swansea took lead after 18 minutes with a

goal from Colin Webster. Saints rallied back after a Brian Hughes own goal, with a commanding display with two strikes each from George O'Brien and Terry Paine.

April 22, 1963: Saints 3 Swansea 0 (Division 2)

Saints continued their run against Swansea with a confident display at The Dell. Dave Burnside scored the opener in the 28th minute, before Terry Paine continued his impressive form against the Swans by scoring twice in the second-half.

history's against them



Morgan Schneiderlin heads Saints in front against Swansea in November 2012.



Ryan Bertrand is brought down during Saints' 1-0 home loss to Swansea last February.

September 21, 1963: Saints 4 Swansea 0 (Division 2)

Yet another crushing win against Swansea. Scotsman John McGuigan scored on his debut with a brilliant diving header after 30 minutes.

George O'Brien and Terry Paine added two more after the break.

McGuigan – who had been signed in the close season from Scunthorpe after impressing against Saints the previous season – rounded off an excellent debut with a fine

drive to give Saints their fourth with seven minutes to go.

April 10, 1966: Saints 3 Swansea 1 (Division 2)

Cliff Huxford's own goal meant that Saints

went behind after 29 minutes.

However, Martin Chivers equalised just 10 minutes later. Terry Paine gave Saints the lead with yet another goal against Swansea, whilst George O'Brien rounded off the win with 15 minutes to go.

Saints clinched promotion to the old First Division for the first time in the club's history a few weeks later.

December 28, 1981: Saints 3 Swansea 1 (Division 1)

Now both in the First Division, the scoreline was exactly the same as the last time they met at The Dell. Dave Armstrong curled in a free-kick after just three minutes but Ante Rajkovic equalised inside 15 minutes.

Kevin Keegan struck twice in 20 second-half minutes – against a side managed by his former Liverpool strike colleague John Toshack – to ease Saints to the win.

Relegated

March 5, 1983: Saints 2 Swansea 1 (Division 1)

Jimmy Loveridge put Swansea ahead after 61 minutes, but Ian Baird levelled two minutes later.

David Armstrong grabbed the winner in the 77th minute and the Swans were relegated from the top flight two months later.

It would take them 28 years to return to the top table.

January 31, 2009: Saints 2 Swansea 2 (Championship)

Polish striker Marek Saganowski opened the scoring for Saints after 17 minutes, but Jordi Gomez equalised 16 minutes later.

Swansea went ahead in the 65th minute through Gorka Pintado – Saints down to ten men at the time after Lee Molyneux was sent off on his only fourth (but his last) appearance for the club.

Saganowski was there to earn Mark Wotte's Saints a point late on.

Saints were relegated to the third tier at the end of the season.

November 10, 2012: Saints 1 Swansea 1 (Premier League)

Three years later, both teams faced off in the Premier League for the first time. Morgan Schneiderlin put Nigel Adkins' men ahead in the 65th minute with a header. But it was a former Saint, Nathan Dyer, who equalised nine minutes later.

Sent off

October 6, 2013: Saints 2 Swansea 0 (Premier League)

Adam Lallana put Saints ahead after 20 minutes, with Jay Rodriguez finishing off the game with seven minutes to go. The win thrust Saints into the Champions League places and left Swansea down in 15th.

February 1, 2015: Saints 0 Swansea 1 (Premier League)

Ryan Bertrand was sent off for the Saints late on after Jonjo Shelvey had scored Swansea's winner in the 83rd minute to give the Welsh side their first win at Southampton in 62 years.

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Saints quiz to test your knowledge

Thirty questions on all things to do with the club

So how well do you know Saints FC?

Test your knowledge in our 30-question quiz.

1 In what year were Saints formed?
2 Who was Cecil Knight?

3 Who has scored most goals for the club – Terry Paine, Mick Channon, or Matt Le Tissier?

4 Which player, who Saints signed in 2006, was nicknamed 'Jesus' by supporters?

5 In what year was Theo Walcott sold to Arsenal?

6 Who was 16 years and 199 days old when he made his Saints first team debut in March 2010 in a 5-0 win against Huddersfield?

7 Which two players scored their first ever Saints goals in an FA Cup win at Coventry City in January 2012?

8 Nigel Adkins' first win as Saints boss in September 2010 was a 1-0 triumph at Sheffield Wednesday. Who scored?

9 From which club did Saints sign Cuco Martina last summer?

10 In which year did Saints boss Ronald Koeman score the only goal in a European Cup final?

Own goals

11 Three Sunderland players scored own goals during their 8-0 thrashing at Saints last season. Name them?

12 Which player scored his first goal for Saints in the 1-0 win against Stoke in 2014/15?

13 How many league games, out of 14, did Steve Wigley win during his ill-fated spell in charge of Saints in 2004/05?

14 Name the two Saints players that made their senior England international debut on the same night in November 2013?

15 Which Lancashire club did the double over Saints during the club's 2010/11 League 1 promotion season?

16 Paolo Gazzaniga was signed from which club?

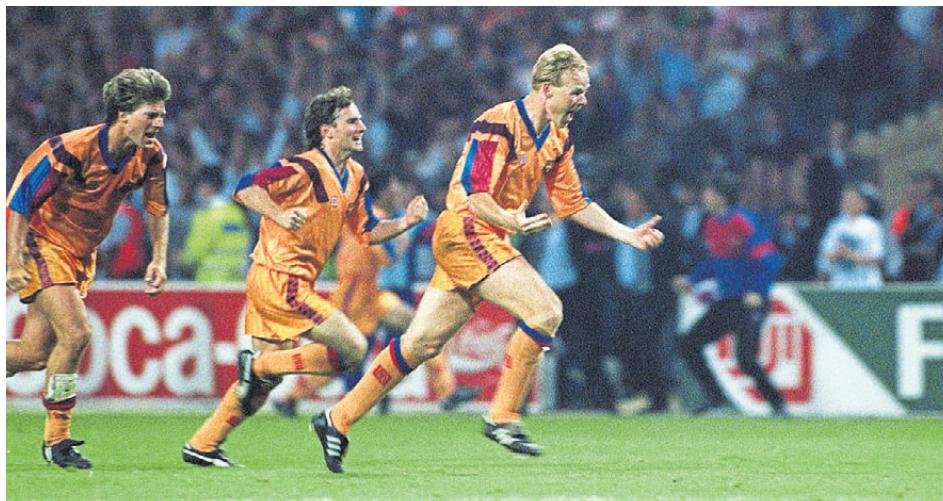
17 Which fourth division club did Saints beat in the quarter finals of the 1976 FA Cup?

18 Prior to this season, who had scored Saints' last competitive goal in a European competition?

19 In which season did Saints last reach the League Cup semi-finals,



Cuco Martina. Which club did Saints sign the defender from?



Ronald Koeman celebrates scoring Barcelona's European Cup final winner, but in which year?

and who was the club's manager at the time?

20 Which striker scored Saints' first goal of the 2009/10 League 1 season, in a 1-1 home draw against Millwall in Alan Pardew's first game in charge?

21 Which current League 2 club did ex-Saint James Beattie manage?

22 Against which club did Rickie Lambert score on his debut for Saints in a League Cup tie that was

in August 2009?

23 And against which club did Rickie Lambert score his last goal for Saints?

24 Which two players both scored twice against Southend in April 2007 when Saints 4-1 to clinch their place in the Championship play-offs?

25 Former Saints defender Chris Baird plays for which Championship club?

Answers

- 1885 2 He was the club's first ever manager. 3 Channon. 4 Alex Ostlund. 5 2006. 6 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. 7 James Ward-Prowse and Aaron Martin. 8 Lee Barnard. 9 FC Twente. 10 1992. 11 Santiago Vergini, Liam Bridcutt, Patrick van Aanholt. 12 Sadio Mane. 13 One 14 Jay Rodriguez and Adam Lallana. 15 Rochale. 16 Gillingham. 17 Bradford City. 18 Kevin Phillips (v Steaua Bucharest, 2003). 19 1986/87, Chris Nicholl. 20 Matt Paterson. 21 Accrington Stanley. 22 Northampton. 23 v Man United (last day of the 2013/14 season). 24 Kenwyne Jones and Leon Best. 25 Derby.

Upsets of all time ...

Great sporting upsets

Japan's shock 34-32 win over South Africa in the 2015 Rugby World Cup at Brighton.

James 'Buster' Douglas crushes Mike Tyson (1990). Tyson had entered 1990 with a record of 37 wins from 37 fights, with 33 of them coming by way of a knockout.

Vinci US Open semi-final win over Serena Williams: Unseeded Roberta Vinci, a 300-1 long shot entering the U.S. Open, upset No. 1 Serena Williams in three sets.

Vinci won 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 over Williams, who had won four straight Grand Slams and the last three U.S. Opens.

U.S. hockey team defeats USSR (1980): In what is known as 'The Miracle on Ice', a make-shift bunch of amateur and college hockey players defeated the much favoured Soviets 4-3 in Lake Placid.

Miracle on Grass

U.S. football team shock England 1-0 (1950): This shock result in the World Cup has been named the 'Miracle on Grass'.

England was considered the 'Kings of Football', and the USA had lost their last seven international matches by the combined score of 45-2.

Lukas Rosol downs Nadal: The Spaniard went into the 2012 Wimbledon tournament following an 11th Grand Slam title in Paris.

However, Nadal lost in the second round for the first time in seven years to the world number 100, who only had 18 ATP wins to his name.

Brazil's humbling by Germany in the 2014 World Cup: Despite Germany being one of the favourites, no-one would have expected them to score five goals against Brazil inside just 19 minutes.

Brazil embarrassingly lost 7-1 to the eventual World Cup winners.



Japan celebrate

CHERRIES 2015/16

Premier League

Aug 8	Aston Villa (H)	.....L	0-1
Aug 17	Liverpool (A)	.....L	0-1
Aug 22	West Ham United (A)	.....W	4-3
	Wilson 3, Pugh		
Aug 25	Hartlepool (LC 2nd rd, A)	.....W	4-0
	Kermorgant, Gosling, Stanislas 2		
Aug 29	Leicester City (H)	.....D	1-1
	Wilson		
Sept 12	Norwich City (A)	.....L	1-3
	Cook		
Sept 19	Sunderland (H)	.....W	2-0
	Wilson, Ritchie		
Sept 26	Stoke City	.....A	
Oct 3	Watford	.....H	
Oct 17	Manchester City	.....A	
Oct 25	Tottenham Hotspur	.....H	
Nov 1	Southampton	.....A	
Nov 7	Newcastle United	.....H	
Nov 21	Swansea City	.....A	
Nov 28	Everton	.....H	
Dec 5	Chelsea	.....A	
Dec 12	Manchester United	.....H	
Dec 19	West Bromwich Albion	.....A	
Dec 26	Crystal Palace	.....H	
Dec 28	Arsenal	.....A	
Jan 2	Leicester City	.....A	
Jan 12	West Ham United	.....H	
Jan 16	Norwich City	.....H	
Jan 23	Sunderland	.....A	
Feb 2	Crystal Palace	.....A	
Feb 6	Arsenal	.....H	
Feb 13	Stoke City	.....H	
Feb 27	Watford	.....A	
Mar 1	Southampton	.....H	
Mar 5	Newcastle United	.....A	
Mar 12	Swansea City	.....H	
Mar 19	Tottenham Hotspur	.....A	
April 2	Manchester City	.....H	
April 9	Aston Villa	.....A	
April 16	Liverpool	.....H	
April 23	Chelsea	.....H	
April 30	Everton	.....A	
May 7	West Bromwich Albion	.....H	
May 15	Manchester United	.....A	

POMPEY 2015/16

League 2

Aug 8	Dag & Red (H)	.....W	3-0
	Bennett 2, Evans		
Aug 12	Derby (LC 1st, H)	.....W	2-1
	McGurk, Chaplin		
Aug 15	Plymouth (A)	.....W	2-1
	Tubbs, Roberts		
Aug 18	Crawley (a)	.....D	0-0
Aug 22	Morecambe (h)	.....D	3-3
	Roberts 2, Stockley		
Aug 25	Reading (LC 2nd, H)	.....L	1-2
	Chaplin		
Aug 29	Luton (A)	.....W	2-1
	Evans, Tubbs		
Sept 1	Exeter (FLT, A)	.....L	0-2
Sept 5	Accrington (H)	.....D	0-0
Sept 12	Barnet (H)	.....W	3-1
	Chaplin 2, McGurk		
Sept 19	Oxford Utd (A)	.....D	1-1
	McGurk		
Sept 26	Bristol Rovers	.....A	
Sept 29	Exeter	.....H	
Oct 3	Yeovil	.....H	
Oct 10	Cambridge	.....A	
Oct 17	Newport	.....A	
Oct 20	Stevenage	.....H	
Oct 24	Mansfield	.....H	
Oct 31	Notts County	.....A	
Nov 14	Wimbledon	.....H	
Nov 21	Carlisle	.....A	
Nov 24	York	.....H	
Nov 28	Wycombe	.....A	
Dec 12	Hartlepool	.....H	
Dec 19	Northampton	.....A	
Dec 26	Leyton Orient	.....A	
Dec 28	Luton	.....H	
Jan 2	Crawley	.....H	
Jan 9	Morecambe	.....A	
Jan 16	Accrington	.....A	
Jan 23	Oxford Utd	.....H	
Jan 30	Barnet	.....A	
Feb 6	Leyton Orient	.....H	
Feb 13	Bristol Rovers	.....H	
Feb 20	Yeovil	.....A	
Feb 27	Cambridge	.....H	
Mar 1	Exeter	.....A	
Mar 5	Stevenage	.....A	
Mar 12	Newport	.....H	
Mar 19	Mansfield	.....A	
Mar 25	Notts County	.....H	
Mar 28	Wimbledon	.....A	
Apr 2	Carlisle	.....H	
Apr 9	Dag & Red	.....A	
Apr 16	Plymouth	.....H	
Apr 19	York	.....A	
Apr 23	Wycombe	.....H	
Apr 30	Hartlepool	.....A	

EASTLEIGH 2015/16

Conference National

Aug 8	Southport (A)	.....W	4-0
	Reason, Turley, Strevens, Constable		
Aug 11	Boreham Wood (H)	.....W	1-0
	Constable		
Aug 15	Lincoln (H)	.....D	1-1
	Constable		
Aug 18	Welling (A)	.....D	2-2
Aug 22	Macclesfield (H)	.....W	1-0
	Lafayette		
Aug 29	Aldershot (A)	.....W	2-1
	Constable, Cook		
Sept 1	Torquay (H)	.....W	3-2
Sept 5	Odubade, Cook, Payne		
Sept 12	Barrow (A)	.....L	0-1
	Sept 12 Gateshead (H)	.....L	1-2
	og		
Sept 15	Altrincham (A)	.....D	1-1
	Odubade		
Sept 19	Chester (A)	.....L	0-1
Sept 22	Dover (H)	.....L	2-5
	Lafayette, Cook		
Sept 26	Wrexham	.....A	
Oct 3	Braintree	.....H	
Oct 10	Tranmere	.....A	
Oct 13	Forest Green	.....H	
Oct 17	Cheltenham	.....A	
Oct 31	Halifax	.....H	
Nov 10	Dover	.....A	
Nov 14	Guiseley	.....A	
Nov 21	Grimsby	.....H	
Nov 28	Southport	.....H	
Dec 5	Macclesfield	.....A	
Dec 19	Kidderminster	.....H	
Dec 26	Bromley	.....A	
Dec 28	Aldershot	.....H	
Jan 2	Bromley	.....H	
Jan 9	Kidderminster	.....A	
Jan 23	Boreham Wood	.....A	
Jan 30	Wrexham	.....H	
Feb 6	Lincoln City	.....A	
Feb 13	Barrow	.....H	
Feb 16	Gateshead	.....A	
Feb 20	Forest Green	.....A	
Feb 27	Woking	.....H	
Mar 1	Cheltenham	.....H	
Mar 5	Braintree	.....A	
Mar 12	Chester	.....H	
Mar 19	Halifax	.....A	
Mar 26	Welling	.....H	
Mar 28	Torquay	.....A	
Apr 2	Guiseley	.....H	
Apr 9	Grimsby	.....A	
Apr 16	Altrincham	.....H	
Apr 23	Tranmere	.....H	
Apr 30	Woking	.....A	

WINCHESTER 2015/16

Southern Lge Div 1 SW

Aug 8	Bridgwater (H)	.....W	7-2
	Bentley 5, Glasspool, Fay		
Aug 11	Wimborne Town (A)	....W	6-5
	Barron, Bentley 4, Short		
Aug 15	Yate Town (A)	....D	0-0
	Aug 19 Marlow (H)	....W	6-1
	Glasspool 2, Flookes, Short, Tomassoli 2		
Aug 22	Evesham United (A)	....L	0-1
Aug 29	Wincanton (FAC, H)	....W	5-1
	Dunn, Flookes, Glasspool, Barron, Bentley		
Aug 31	AFC Totton (H)	....W	3-1
	Bentley 2, Diaper		
Sept 5	Mangotsfield United (A)	....D	2-2
	Flookes, Barron		
Sept 12	Swindon Super (A, FAC)	....W	4-0
	Bentley 2, Barron, Cann		
Sept 19	Cinderford Town (H)	....D	0-0
September 26	Didcot Town	.....H	
Sept 28	Burnham	.....A	
Oct 10	Swindon Supermarine	.....A	
Oct 17	Banbury United	.....H	
Oct 24	Bishops Cleeve	.....H	
Oct 26	Burnham	.....A	
Oct 29	Bashley	.....H	
Oct 30	Tiverton Town	.....H	
Oct 17	Slimbridge	.....A	
Oct 24	Banbury United	.....H	
Oct 26	Burnham	.....A	
Oct 29	Bashley	.....H	
Nov 5	Winchester City (A)	....L	1-3
	Simpson		
Sept 5	Yate Town (H)	....W	2-1
	Feeney, Sherbourne		
Sept 19	Bridgwater Town (A)	....W	5-0
	Gosney, G Feeney, Allen, Simpson, Sherbourne		
Sept 26	Cinderford Town	.....A	
Sept 29	Bashley	.....H	
Oct 10	Tiverton Town	.....H	
Oct 17	Slimbridge	.....A	
Oct 24	Banbury United	.....H	
Oct 26	Burnham	.....A	
Oct 29	Bashley	.....H	
Nov 7	Swindon Supermarine	.....A	
Nov 14	Mangotsfield United	.....H	
Nov 17	Larkhall Athletic	.....H	
Nov 21	Evesham United	.....A	
Nov 28	Taunton Town	.....H	
Dec 1	Wantage Town	.....A	
Dec 5	North Leigh	.....A	
Dec 12	Bishops Cleeve	.....H	
Dec 19	Didcot Town	.....A	
Dec 26	Winchester City	.....H	
Jan 2	Wimborne Town	.....A	
Jan 9	Marlow	.....H	
Jan 16	Yate Town	.....A	
Jan 23	Bridgwater Town	.....H	
Jan 30	Evesham United	.....H	
Feb 6	Shortwood United	.....A	
Feb 13	Cinderford Town	.....H	
Feb 20	Bashley	.....A	
Feb 27	Slimbridge	.....H	
Mar 5	Tiverton Town	.....A	
Mar 12	North Leigh	.....H	
Mar 19	Bishops Cleeve	.....A	
Mar 26	Marlow	.....A	
Mar 28	Wimborne Town	.....H	
April 2	Burnham	.....H	
April 9	Banbury United	.....A	
April 16	Larkhall Athletic	.....H	
April 23	Shortwood United	.....A	
April 30	Mangotsfield United	.....A	

AFC TOTTEN 2015/16

Southern Lge Div 1 SW

Aug 8	Taunton Town (A)	.....L	2-3
	Watts, Gosney		
Aug 11	Wantage Town (H)	....D	2-2
	Watts, Gosney		
Aug 15	Shortwood United (H)	....L	0-2
	Aug 19 Larkhall Athletic (A)	....L	0-2
	Aug 22 Didcot (H)	....L	1-3
	Sherborne		
Aug 29	Portchester (FAC, A)	....L	1-3
	Williams		
Aug 31	Winchester City (A)	....L	1-3
	Simpson		
Sept 5	Yate Town (H)	....W	2-1
	Feeney, Sherbourne		
Sept 19	Bridgwater Town (A)	....W	5-0
	Gosney, G Feeney, Allen, Simpson, Sherbourne		
Sept 26	Cinderford Town	.....A	
Sept 29	Bashley	.....H	
Oct 10	Tiverton Town	.....H	
Oct 17	Slimbridge	.....A	
Oct 24	Banbury United	.....H	
Oct 26	Burnham	.....A	
Oct 29	Bashley	.....H	
Nov 5	Winchester City (A)	....L	1-3
	Simpson		
Nov 12	Yate Town (H)	....W	2-1
	Feeney, Sherbourne		
Nov 19	Bridgwater Town (A)	....W	5-0
	Gosney, G Feeney, Allen, Simpson, Sherbourne		
Nov 26	Cinderford Town	.....A	
Nov 29	Bashley	.....H	
Dec 5	North Leigh	.....A	
Dec 12	Bishops Cleeve	.....H	
Dec 19	Didcot Town	.....A	
Dec 26	Winchester City	.....H	
Jan 2	Wimborne Town	.....A	
Jan 9	Marlow	.....H	
Jan 16	Yate Town	.....A	
Jan 23	Bridgwater Town	.....H	
Jan 30	Evesham United	.....H	
Feb 6	Shortwood United	.....A	
Feb 13	Cinderford Town	.....H	
Feb 20	Bashley	.....A	
Feb 27	Slimbridge	.....H	
Mar 5	Tiverton Town	.....A	
Mar 12	North Leigh	.....H	
Mar 19	Bishops Cleeve	.....A	
Mar 26	Marlow	.....A	
Mar 28	Wimborne Town	.....H	
April 2	Burnham	.....H	
April 9	Banbury United	.....A	

Swans' incredible recent

SAINTS fans attending this weekend's clash with Swansea City could be forgiven for thinking they have been on the proverbial roller-coaster ride in recent years.

Relegated twice in five seasons between 2005-2009 inclusive, Saints then enjoyed back-to-back promotions in 2011-2012 – returning them to where they had been eight years previously, the Premier League, writes **SIMON CARTER**.

Those two promotions and two relegations in eight seasons compared to three promotions (1960, 1966 and 1978) and two relegations (1953 and 1974) in the 52 years spanning 1953-2005.

Now compare that to this weekend's visitors, Swansea. Between 1978 and 1986 they went all the way from the fourth to the first division and back again – three promotions and three relegations in the space of nine remarkable seasons.

That is a real roller-coaster ride, with enough ups and downs to last more supporters a lifetime.

Amazingly, though, Swans fans have since enjoyed a second meteoric rise from top to bottom.

The club were almost relegated to the Conference at the end of the 2002/03 season. Had they not beaten Hull City at the Vetch Field on the final day of the campaign, they would have gone down.

Two years later, a second sensational journey began with promotion to the third tier. In 2008, they went up again as League 1 champions. And in 2011, via the Championship play-offs, a third promotion in seven seasons returned them to the top table of English football.

Phenomenal rise

In all, since 1978, in the same time Saints have won promotion three times and been relegated twice, the Swans have celebrated eight promotions and been relegated five times.

Here, the *Sports Pink* charts their remarkable journeys.

1977/78: The Swans' phenomenal rise started with a third placed finish in the old Fourth Division.

Ex-Liverpool striker John Toshack had taken over mid-season from Harry Griffiths, and masterminded the Welsh club's promotion as the Football League's top scorers with 87 goals.

Alan Curtis – later to sign for Saints – hammered 32 fourth tier goals while midfielder Robbie James struck 16 – both players hitting a hat-trick in an 8-0 thrashing of Hartlepool on April Fool's Day.

1978/79: A second successive promotion saw the Swans go up in third place again, a point behind champions Shrewsbury Town.

This time they struck 83 goals – the joint second-highest in the top four divisions with only Liverpool (85) netting more.

Ex-Anfield reserve Alan Waddle top scored with 19 league goals, followed by Robbie James (14), Curtis (13), Toshack (13) and Jeremy Charles (12).

1980/81: A third promotion in four seasons took Swansea into the top flight for the first time in the club's history. As with their other



Swansea legend Alan Curtis, left, celebrates a Saints goal against Everton in 1984.



Swansea City's Andre Ayew scores in his side's 2-1 win against Manchester United last month.

two promotions, they finished third – behind champions West Ham and Notts County.

in mid March 1982 put them top of the entire Football League.

There were only 12 games left at that stage, but Swansea could not sustain their incredible position.

They won only four of those dozen matches – Curtis scoring the only goal in a 1-0 win over Saints in south Wales in one of them – and eventually finished sixth, three points and one place above Saints.

If the Swans' rise was meteoric, though, so

was their demise.

1982/83: Swansea failed to live up to the standards of their debut season in the top flight, and were relegated. Their away record was the primary reason the success story started to turn sour – they failed to win a league game away from the Vetch.

1983/84: A second successive relegation saw the Swans return to the third tier.

It roller-coaster story



Jason Puncheon goes for goal during Saints' 1-1 St Mary's draw with Swansea in November 2012.



Manchester United's ex-Saints star Morgan Schneiderlin challenges Swansea's Bafetimbi Gomis during last month's league clash in Wales.

1985/86: After three promotions in four seasons, a third relegation in four seasons returned Swansea to the basement division.

They were back where they had started, but what a journey!

A journey that provided enough memories, both good and bad, to last a lifetime.

Swansea, though, hadn't finished playing with their fans' emotions, though.

Not at all.

And after almost nosediving into the Conference under Brian Flynn in 2003, the Welsh club started a second memorable climb.

Where Toshack had overseen all three promotions a few decades earlier, this time a different manager was in charge for each promotion.

Kenny Jackett was manager when the club won promotion from League 2 in 2004/05,

Roberto Martinez was in charge when the League 1 title was collected three years later, and Brendan Rodgers was manager when the Premier League was reached in 2011.

Critics thought the Swans' Premier League life would be as short as their First Division career was in the early eighties.

But they have continued to confound those critics, and are now in their fifth successive top flight campaign.

And they show only signs of improving, rather than being dragged into a relegation struggle.

Last month's 2-1 Liberty Stadium success against Manchester United was the third league game running they have won against Louis Van Gaal's men since the start of last season.

In 2014/15, the Swans – now managed by ex-Saint Garry Monk – also managed to complete the double over Arsenal.

They also pulled off a smash-and-grab 1-0 victory at St Mary's at a time when Saints were in the Champions League places and had just won at Manchester United and Newcastle.

These, then, are days of miracle and wonder for a club who almost lost their Football League place in the same month that Saints last reached an FA Cup final. Yes, that recently.

The late 70s and early 80s were days of miracle and wonder, too.

But how do they compare with today? Only Swansea fans, of course, can answer that.

I would imagine the 21st century glories, in many ways, outweigh the golden Toshack era memories.

After all, the top flight was a much more level playing field in the early 1980s.

Chelsea weren't bankrolled by a Russian oil billionaire. They weren't even in the old First Division when Swansea spent two seasons rubbing shoulders with the elite. They were in the second tier, and they weren't doing particularly well in that either.

Manchester City weren't bankrolled by a mega wealthy Middle Eastern Sheik. Indeed, they were relegated along with Swansea in 1982/83.

Back in the early 1980s, top flight clubs were not handed obscene sums of money as a result of ever larger television deals. They were hardly handed any money at all from television deals.

The first live top flight game wasn't screened until October 1983, by which time Swansea had been relegated.

As you can see, therefore, the footballing landscape has been radically reshaped between Swansea's first taste of top flight football and their second.

Celebrate wildly

Now they have to take on Manchester United knowing the opposition squad has cost hundreds of millions more to assemble than theirs has.

And still they beat Manchester United. Home and away last season, and home this season.

They are three results which all football fans in this country – apart from those supporting Louis Van Gaal's side, obviously – should celebrate wildly.

For those three results show that money isn't everything.

Over the course of a whole season, it apparently is. Swansea are not going to finish above United, we know that.

But one of the few enduring pleasures of the Premier League is the fact that the lesser clubs, on their day, can still shock the massive spenders, the financial juggernauts.

And that is why Swansea's three wins over United probably mean more to their fans than any of their remarkable results of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

Teams to flourish in the top division

Thirteen sides to finish in top 10 after promotion

WITH the financial gap between the Premier League and the Championship getting ever larger, it is often seen as an heroic feat for a team from the second tier to crack the top-10 in their first season after promotion.

In fact it has only happened five times in the last 10 years, with West Ham doing it twice in that time to match Blackburn's record.

But it has not always been such a rare achievement and here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the 13 teams in the Premier League era who have gone from second tier to elite contenders in a single season.

Blackburn, fourth - 1992/93: The first of the big spenders marked their arrival in the Premier League by breaking the British transfer record to sign a 21-year-old Alan Shearer from Saints ahead of the campaign. Shearer spent much of the season injured but scored 16 goals in 21 appearances alongside the likes of Colin Hendry and Tim Sherwood as Rovers finished fourth. They would win the title two years later.

Newcastle, third - 1993/94: The Magpies signed Andy Cole from Bristol City the previous season as they won the First Division title and the striker would go on to be the leading scorer in the Premier League with 34 goals as the Kevin Keegan revolution swept through St James' Park.

Nottingham Forest, third - 1994/5: With Stan Collymore in the sort of form that would earn him a record transfer to Liverpool and Dutch international Bryan Roy supporting alongside Steve Stone, Lars Bohinen and, of course, Stuart Pearce, Forest finished third with the highlight of their season a 7-1 demolition of Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough.

Leicester, ninth - 1996/97: This Foxes campaign will most fondly be remembered for their League Cup triumph but they also managed to break into the top-10. With a teenage Emile Heskey and Steve Claridge at 12 years his senior leading the line, Martin O'Neill's men finished ninth.

Middlesbrough, ninth - 1998/99: Hamilton Ricard's goals fuelled the season and while he did not last long



Ex-Saint Alan Shearer helped Blackburn make an instant impact

in the Premier League, the Teessiders stuck around for the next 10 seasons.

Sunderland, seventh - 1999/2000: Kevin Phillips scored 30 league goals with Niall Quinn by his side

as the two men who are still the Black Cats' all-time leading Premier League goalscorers fired them to seventh under the guidance of Peter Reid. They would repeat the trick the following season.



First boss to be fired

BRENDAN Rodgers, Steve McLaren and Dick Advocaat might be fearing what the next call from the chairman holds. But if the struggling managers of Liverpool, Newcastle and Sunderland want evidence that Premier League clubs can show patience, they can look to last season.

Neil Warnock was the first boss to be sacked last time around, with his short stint at Crystal Palace ending on December 27. However it was a different story in 2013/14, with six bosses having been moved on by the same stage of the season. Here is a look at recent seasons, the first sackings, and how the changes worked out:

2014/15: Neil Warnock, Crystal Palace - DECEMBER 27

Warnock had been a surprise choice to replace Tony Pulis, who resigned on the eve of the season. A second spell at Selhurst Park for Warnock was cut short a day after the 3-1 home defeat to Saints, when supporters turned on the 66-year-old.

RESULT: Alan Pardew came in and worked wonders, hoisting Palace away from danger and to a 10th-placed finish.

2013/14: Paolo Di Canio, Sunderland - SEPTEMBER 22

A colourful six-month spell ended when Italian Di Canio was ousted, the day after a 3-0 defeat at West Brom left Sunderland rooted to the foot of the Barclays Premier League.

RESULT: Gus Poyet revived Sunderland's season, steering the Black Cats to safety and to the League Cup final, where they lost to Manchester City.

2012/13: Roberto Di Matteo, Chelsea - NOVEMBER 21

He won the Champions League as caretaker boss with Chelsea, but a 3-0 defeat to Juventus in the same competition six months later saw Di Matteo stripped of the job he had taken on full-time over the summer.

RESULT: In came Rafael Benitez, helping Chelsea finish third in the Premier League and win the Europa League.

2011/12: Steve Bruce, Sunderland - NOVEMBER 30

After just two wins in 15 home league games, Sunderland chairman Ellis Short described results as "simply not good enough" and sent Bruce on his way.

RESULT: Martin O'Neill was a popular replacement and Sunderland finished 13th.

2010/11: Chris Hughton, Newcastle - DECEMBER 6

Hughton guided Newcastle to promotion, but with the team 11th in the Premier League in their first season back he was sacked. **RESULT:** Alan Pardew came in, to local scepticism, but in trying circumstances lasted four years before jumping ship to Crystal Palace.

2009/10: Paul Hart, Portsmouth - NOVEMBER 24

A relegation season began with Hart at the helm and with seven straight league defeats. After only the slightest improvement thereafter, he was toast.

RESULT: Hart was replaced by Avram Grant, but Portsmouth were doomed and finished with just 19 points.

Saints end bad run with a stunning win at Shanklin

Shanklin LFC 0 - 5 Southampton Saints LFC

HT 0 - 3

SOUTHAMPTON Saints romped to a 5-0 win on the Isle of Wight against Shanklin in the FA Women's Premier League.

Despite some promising play, Saints had only gained three points from an away tie at Bristol against St Nicholas LFC.

Saints Manager Adam Lee demanded his team put the run of poor luck behind them and go out and win the game.

The Ladies were on song and romped to a 3-0 lead by the interval - Midge Browning, Skipper Krystal Whyte and Becky Bath causing the damage.

Browning scored again in the second half and Emma Whitlock finished with aplomb.

With both Maidenhead and Exeter losing, the Saints' second league victory saw them move up to sixth place.

Southampton will be looking to build on this in their next fixture against Chichester.

Elsewhere in the Southern Region Northern Division, Southampton Women beat Wimborne 2-0 while Hannah Chaffey struck three goals as Winchester beat Andover 5-1.

Southampton Saints Reserves 1 Charlton 5

The newly formed Saints Reserves felt prepared and up for the challenge of visitors Charlton at Grigg Lane, the home of Brockenhurst F.C.

But they were 2-0 down early on and conceded a third just before half-time when a shot was deflected unluckily off the shin of Saints defender Kelly Fripp.

Saints replaced injured pair Millie Peake (goalkeeper) and centre back Gemma Morrison and half-time, with Rhianna Fallon and Kirsty Parkinson coming on for their debuts.

Tiff Eley slid in Elle Pearce to bring Saints back into the game, but Charlton had the final say with two more goals.

Further up the coast there was more misery for another Hampshire side as Pompey Reserves lost to Tottenham.

The only real bright spot for the south coast was in the Sussex Derby that saw Brighton beat Lewes.

Southampton Saints' under-16 side caned Petersfield 7-1 in their opening league game. Goals came from Alisha Buckingham (3), Siena White (2), Libby O'Dell and an own goal.

Elsewhere in the Winchester & District League, Shanklin drew 0-0 against Oaklands.

Bishops Waltham were in good form and secured a 10-1 victory over Wey Valley, Abigail Wollett scoring five of them.

Saints' under-14s caned Oakley's under-15s 6-1 with goals from Lily Shergill, Kia Anteney (2), Grace Jenman (2) and Sian Bradbeer.

Crookham scored a 2-1 victory over Aldershot U15s with goals from Morgan Neighbour and Harriet Conlon.

Winchester Flyers put ten past Tidworth with Radford hitting a hat-trick.



Saints ladies reserves line-up.



Kat Littleboy rises for a header.



Becky Bath challenges



Saints ladies give it a high five!

Under-13s emphatic 8-1 victory

SOUTHAMPTON Saints under-13s romped to an 8-1 success against Wyvern at Lapstone Park.

After just two minutes a curving corner from Francesca Mansen that looked like it would go in anyway was given a finishing touch by Siena Millen.

After Saints had missed a penalty, Larissa White made it 2-0 and the same player added a third soon after with a shot in off the crossbar.

Shortly after the restart, Millen took a heavy tackle and Olivia Norton came on up front.

Norton made it 4-0 before Millen returned to the action to net her second.

Millen's corner set up Katie Oliver to make it 6-0 before White completed her second hat-trick in successive matches.

After Wyvern had replied, Lucy Nightingale finished the scoring off with a low drive.

Romsey U14 won at Mudeford with Siena Arney and Lauren Hodder scoring.

Apprehensive

Southampton Saints' under-12s were apprehensive prior to their first game in the Winchester & District U13 League.

But they needn't have worried, as they defeated St Francis 7-2.

Sydney Whymark set up Tilly Thomas for the first before Katie Pakes drove low into the corner of the net from 20 yards.

Pakes then set up centre back Kira McClatchey to fire home from 25 yards out before Saints keeper Lillie Hansford was twice beaten before half-time.

Saints' half-time team talk naturally centred on tightening up at the back, and great credit to the whole team for keeping a clean sheet in the second half.

At the other end, Saints scored four more goals.

After Larnie Bisson had shot narrowly wide an excellent ball from Nicole Ryder set up Whymark for a cool finish and then another long-range effort from Pakes made it five.

Ella Shergill's pass gave Tilly Thomas the chance to grab her second before Tilly Thomas completed her hat-trick from the penalty spot after Erin Randall was fouled.

● Saints' under-11s won 5-2 at Widbrook under-11s to continue their 100 per cent record.

At Romsey, Daisy McLeod bagged a hat trick for Worthies as they ran out winners by five goals.

Winchester U11s showed what a good side they are by winning 19-0. Magan Hart scored a double hat trick and was pushed all the way in the scoring stakes as Victoria Ormston managed five too.

Consumed by his profes

RICHARD Hill was bristling.

His Eastleigh team had beaten Telford United 4-3 last December, but the Spitfires boss wasn't happy with the way that the game was reported in these pages, *writes PAUL McNAMARA*.

This writer had referred to the victors ending a four game winless streak with their triumph in Shropshire.

Hill couldn't believe that the defeat of a chiefly second string Eastleigh team in the Hampshire Senior Cup had been factored into the equation, so creating the impression of a bleaker situation than the one that existed.

That small episode perhaps encapsulates why Hill's reign coincided with the headiest days in the history of this formerly tiny Hampshire club.

Fortunate

Nothing escaped this manager; a trait that marked his three years in charge at the Silverlake Stadium.

No detail was too minor to be considered, if Hill believed that there was even the tiniest chance it might influence the outcome of his team's matches.

I was fortunate enough to spend the Spitfires' Conference South title winning campaign embedded in the camp, while writing a book about that 2013/2014 season.

To watch Hill work was to see a man consumed by his profession.

Players were never left in the dark about imminent opponents - teams that Hill endeavoured get out and scout himself, sacrificing the scant free time he would otherwise have enjoyed.

On one occasion, ahead of an FA Trophy tie with Gateshead in December 2013, Hill drove the round trip to the north-east to make a personal check on the team that was then a division higher than his own.

Visibly drained

Never mind that the match was on television. When Gateshead came to the Silverlake, Eastleigh won 2-0.

These things don't happen by accident.

As the championship crown drew within touching distance in 2014, Hill was visibly drained.

He had invested every last ounce of himself to achieve the only target that was acceptable to Eastleigh's ferociously ambitious owner, Stewart Donald.

But rather than withdraw into himself, Hill worked harder and harder.

The manager took on board all media responsibilities, preferring for his players to remain focused on football alone as the season reached crunch time.

With bodies failing, as a gruelling schedule took its toll, Hill's resources were dwindling, yet he masterminded a wonderful late-season 12-game unbeaten run (all of those matches in the league, to boot!), to clinch the Spitfires' first-ever promotion into non-league's top flight.

It is possibly Hill's drive, application and, simply, the fact he cares so much that eventually led to his resignation on Wednesday.



Eastleigh manager Richard Hill hands out advice during one of his early games in charge of the club.

Full throttle

After all, there is only so long a person can operate at full throttle before they hit a mental brick wall.

And Hill didn't let up after taking Eastleigh into the Conference Premier (now the National League).

That would be the third major test of his reign.

The first had come when he took over an unbalanced team, playing in front of relatively sparse crowds, in September 2012, charged with engineering a turnaround in fortunes at the Silverlake.

Hill patiently chipped away, tweaking and cajoling.

When it clicked, the results were spectacular, with Eastleigh shooting up the league to qualify for the 2013 Conference South play-

offs, where they were beaten on penalties by Dover.

With the second big challenge - promotion - accomplished in 2014, the toughest task of all was going to be that of establishing the Spitfires at the top-table of non-league football.

Eastleigh's adjustment period in their elevated surroundings was remarkably brief. By the turn of the year they occupied a play-off spot.

Anybody who watched them regularly was confident that Hill's team wouldn't surrender their top-five place, a measure of the confidence that the manager had instilled in his club's supporters, as well as his players.

There were some memorable days on the way to Eastleigh's eventual fourth place finish. Most Spitfires' fans would probably cite the 2-1 win at Bristol Rovers in March as the ultimate high.

Not only did their team win at the home of

a traditionally strong Football League outfit, in front of more than 7,000 fans, but Eastleigh controlled every aspect of the game.

To put that result into context, it would be akin to newly-promoted Bournemouth going to Old Trafford and comprehensively outplaying and beating Manchester United in the Premier League.

Hill was crushed when Grimsby Town proved too strong for his team over two-legs in the play-offs at the end of the 2014/2015 campaign - but, typically, he was soon setting his sights on doing even better this time around.

As such, the 52 year-old would have engaged in an enormous amount of soul-searching before he concluded that his club would benefit from a fresh outlook at the helm.

Whoever replaces him has ginormous shoes to fill, but Hill's successor will be a lucky man.

The Eastleigh that appointed Hill was so

sion ...



far removed from today's edition it is scarcely comprehensible.

The Spitfires' new boss will oversee his first home match in a rapidly developing stadium, routinely housing four-figure crowds whenever Eastleigh are in action.

Swamped

Hill's Silverlake debut, a 4-2 win over Maidenhead United on September 15 2012, was watched by 506 people.

The three points won pushed Eastleigh up to 13th in the Conference South.

Despite their dip in form this month, the Spitfires are half-way up the National League table, a mere three points away from a play-off berth.

Donald has stated that he has already been swamped with applicants for what must be one of the most attractive jobs

outside of the Football League.

Once he has selected his man, the chairman will back him to the hilt.

Hill was always wholesome in his praise, both in private and in public, for the level of support he received from Donald, a chairman who plainly wants only the very best for his football club.

That is what Hill gave him.

Achievements

Whichever club the now former manager of Eastleigh manages next can expect exactly the same.

Anybody who cares for Eastleigh FC should wish Richard Hill well.

His efforts and achievements will never be forgotten at the Silverlake Stadium.

Follow me on twitter @mcnamara_sport

Richard Hill: I have no idea what I'll do - but I do need to work ...

RICHARD Hill says he has no idea where the next road will take him after quitting as manager of Eastleigh.

With the Spitfires' season threatening to go downhill after a run of five games without a win, Hill fell on his sword on Wednesday in a meeting with chairman and close friend Stewart Donald, *writes Wendy Gee*.

A statement issued by the Spitfires said Hill had felt the club would benefit from a fresh outlook and had made the decision "solely in the best interests of the club, regardless of any personal impact this may have on him."

The statement added: "Richard has always acted in the best interests of the club and his actions today further demonstrate his passion for Eastleigh FC and desire for the club to progress."

Asked by *The Pink*, what the future had in store for him, Eastleigh's departing boss of three years, said: "It doesn't matter about me. In 24 hours everyone will want to know who the next manager is."

Massive compliment

"I don't know what Richard Hill is going to do. He's not a wealthy man and he needs to work. We'll see."

With assistant manager stints at QPR, Aston Villa, Tranmere Rovers and Gillingham on his impressive CV, Hill has had some good times in football.

So it comes as a massive compliment to non-League Eastleigh and chairman Donald that he rates them the pick of the bunch.

"Eastleigh's one of the best football clubs I've worked for, if not the best. Gillingham was good, but, yes, this is probably the best. If you take just football into account then it would have to be QPR but, taking everything as a whole, it's Eastleigh."

Singling out Donald for special praise, Hill added: "Stew is most definitely far and above the best chairman I've worked for. There has never been a cross word, he's never interfered, he's a manager's dream."

"He's always been there on the end of a phone. I've even called him a 12 o'clock at night and again at six o'clock that morning. He's always there and I can't speak highly enough of him."

"I've got nothing but good things to say about Eastleigh FC and everyone connected with the club. Everybody has been respectful and courteous towards me and been attentive to my needs."

"I could have stayed for the rest of the season taking up time and resources, but I can't do that, I'm not that sort of person."

"I believe that by doing this now, it's giving someone else the chance to get the club into the play-offs – minimum."

Hill's assistant, Chris Todd, was due to take caretaker charge of the side for today's trip to Wrexham and the former Exeter defender wouldn't turn down the chance to do the job full-time.

Todd said: "Lots of things have happened in short space of time and I was as shocked as anyone (by Hill's departure), but these things happen in football."

"We've got lads here with a lot of experience and we've seen it all before. You never know what's going to happen in football from one day to the next."

"Richard's left and, for all he's done for this football club, you have to thank him. He's put the club in the Conference and achieved many things for Eastleigh. He deserves credit for that."

"If the club feel it's right to take me on, so be it. I would never refuse."

"Managing is something I want to do, it's always been in my thought process."



Richard Hill, right, and Eastleigh's new caretaker boss Chris Todd.

EASTLEIGH'S GREAT WINS UNDER RICHARD HILL - SEE PAGES 32 AND 33

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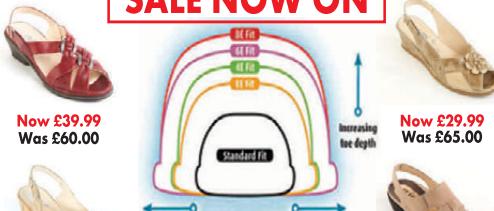
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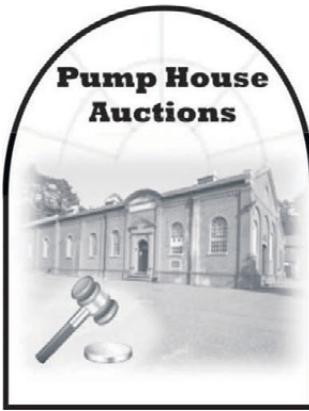
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Daily Echo

Non league FOOTBALL



Havant fall victims to Ebbsfleet side in red hot form

EBBSFLEET United clocked up their ninth league win of the season at Havant & Waterlooville's expense last Saturday.

It marks a tidy start to the managerial career of former Eastleigh skipper Daryl McMahon, left.

The Irishman was awarded a two-year contract by Ebbsfleet in April, after he had taken caretaker charge for four 'between managers' matches last season – and it is looking like an inspired appointment by the Kent

based club.

The Havant win made it 28 out of a possible 30 points already this season – the best record anywhere in the top seven divisions of English football.

Having seen at first hand what Ebbsfleet are capable of in a 4-1 defeat at Westleigh Park last Saturday, H&W boss Lee Bradbury admitted: "We probably witnessed the league winners today.

"They are a class above White-



hawk who we played in midweek. To be honest, I can't see any other team in the league pushing them.

"We matched them for spells but couldn't maintain it for the whole 90 minutes. They ended up easy winners."

Matt Godden (2) and Jordan Parkes turned the heat up on Havant before ex-Saint Matt Paterson pulled one back. But Ebbsfleet had the last word as Danny Haynes broke away and fired in a 20-yarder.

Former Saints player revels in player management role

Howard backs his cousin Targett for caps at top level

FORMER Saints and Eastleigh midfielder Brian Howard is adapting to a new role in the game.

After retiring from football after being released by the Spittires last May, Howard is now working in personal sports management, writes PAUL McNAMARA.

That's a job description Howard prefers to the 'dark' term – agent.

With roughly 30 players aged between 16 and 25 and from across all levels of the game under his watchful eye, Howard is on hand to lend his experience, guiding his charges on and off the field.

Talking enthusiastically about his new assignment, Howard says: "I go to a lot of games to watch all the boys [that he manages].

"I can watch them specifically, and pick up on little things that their managers won't see. A manager has got to worry about his entire team, whereas I can identify what those managers are missing, and pass that on to the boys.

Right direction

"I can see what they're doing wrong; what they need to do to keep moving in the right direction."

Another talented young footballer to benefit from Howard's wisdom, garnered across 12 years in the professional game, is Matt Targett.

The Saints defender is Howard's cousin and the older man is full of praise for how Targett has adapted to top-flight football at St Mary's.

"He had a tough start this season," said Howard, "but he's shown a lot of character to come back and perform extremely well."

"Leighton Baines and Luke Shaw are injured – and so is Ryan Bertrand at Saints. There are opportunities for club and country if he keeps working hard and progressing."



Brian Howard in action for Eastleigh last season.

A former Saints youngster himself – he never made a competitive first team appearance for the club, though – Howard is always available if Targett is after any advice.

"I try to offer family support, first and foremost, but I'm always there if he needs me," Howard says of his

relationship with the Saints left-back.

Indeed, hours before this interview, Howard, with typical efficiency, has been finalising his Christmas dinner plans.

He will be in the Targett household for a meal that the man who once

scored Barnsley's FA Cup winner at Anfield is already relishing. It will be the first time for many a year that Howard's festive celebrations won't be inhibited by the need to prepare for a Boxing Day fixture.

Watching football is more Brian Howard's thing now.

Keeper's in short supply for both clubs

MICHAEL Poke is caught in the middle of two goalkeeping crises.

The shoulder injury he sustained playing on loan for Eastleigh against Gateshead has ruled him out of action for at least two months.

Former Saints shot-stopper Poke damaged his AC (acromioclavicular) joint in a collision with Heed goalscorer Danny Johnson and Eastleigh have their doubts whether he will play again before he is due to return to Fratton Park in January.

That blow appeared to have been softened this week when the Spittires' regular number one Ross Flintey made a welcome return from the cracked thumb bone he suffered on the second day of pre-season.

Brace

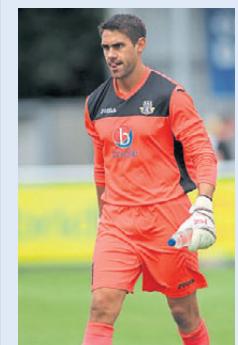
But, typically of Eastleigh's bad luck right now, they have lost Flintey to suspension after he was sent off for a professional foul an hour into Tuesday's disastrous 5-2 home defeat by his old club Dover Athletic.

Poke's parent club Portsmouth are faring no better in the goalkeeping department.

Paul Jones was left with his knee in a brace following Saturday's 1-1 draw at Oxford United in League Two and it is feared he could be out for at least a month.

With Brian Murphy already absent with a groin problem, there was talk this week of 36-year-old Daryl Flahavan returning on a short-term deal.

Since leaving AFC Bournemouth in the summer, Flahavan – a former Saints keeper – has been maintaining his fitness with Portsmouth while exploring his options.



Michael Poke

Non league FOOTBALL



Former Saint joins promotion-chasing Poole on loan

EX-SAINTS youngster Corby Moore has joined Poole Town on a month-long loan from National League leaders Forest Green Rovers.

Concerned by a return of just three goals in as many league games, Dolphins boss Tom Killick, left, feels the 21-year-old playmaker could give his promotion-chasing Southern Premier side a new dimension.

Moore progressed through the highly-rated youth system at Southampton and subsequently broke into the develop-

ment squad where he played alongside the likes of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Luke Shaw.

In March 2014, he penned a two-year deal at North American Soccer League side Indy Eleven – where ex-Brazil international Kleberson plied his trade – but left to join Forest Green in January this year, signing a new six-month contract in June.

Killick said: "I felt we needed an injection of fresh blood in our attacking options and he will give us that. We have

perhaps not been as fluid as we would have liked going forward recently, so I hope that he can help."

Forest Green are top of the National League so it's no disgrace that he is struggling to break into their team. I haven't seen him play personally but I have spoken to three or four people who all speak very positively about him.

"He was with Southampton for a long time and played at a good level in America, so he is not without experience and we're very pleased to have him."

Salisbury will be champions 'because of their resources'

Sholing manager tips Whites to win Wessex division

SHOLING boss Dave Diaper reckons Salisbury's deep pockets make them nailed-on favourites for the Sydenhams Premier Division title.

Speaking after last Saturday's 1-1 draw with the ambitious Wiltshire outfit, Diaper tipped Steve Claridge's side to succeed Petersfield as wearers of the Wessex crown, *writes Wendy Gee*.

Hinting that money would be the defining factor, he said: "Salisbury will be champions because they've got the resources to make any changes they need to win it."

With average home gates of nearly 700, the Wiltshire Whites are attracting attendances never before seen in the Wessex League.

That and the fact that they are ambitious to one day follow their predecessors, Salisbury City FC, into the National League (formerly Conference), has earned them the reputation of the Sydenhams big spenders.

But, writing in *The Non-League Paper*, Whites vice-chairman Ian Ridley stressed that is not the case.

"Detractors will say that Steve [Claridge] has the budget but, trust me, we are not paying what some at our level are," he said.

"Our wage bill, indeed, will be around a third of our turnover and not reliant on any benefactor."

"We are fiercely determined that Salisbury FC will not go the way of its [financially-stricken] predecessor. Not on our watch."

"And that includes Steve. He has a 20 per cent share in the club and, as



Salisbury's manager Steve Claridge pictured at Sholing last weekend.

a result, takes an interest in every penny coming in, from programme sales to player sponsorship, and every penny that goes out – chiefly the wage bill.

"That means he gets the whole picture of the club and knows whether we can or can't afford players and

what they are asking. He expects value in everything and also expects to help raise revenue himself.

"Steve would have been a good coach or manager of a side whether he had that stake or not, but it does mean he is not making unreasonable demands of a board."

"It does make me wonder whether more clubs might seek investment from a manager when he joins so that he then spends club money as if his own and looks to bring it in too," he added.

"Just don't come calling for that from Steve Claridge. He's ours!"

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES
Monday, September 28
SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier: Hungerford v Hitchin Town, Redditch v St Neots. Division One South & West: Burnham v Winchester City.

Tuesday, September 29
SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bedworth v Kings Lynn, Bideford v Poole, Biggleswade v Cambridge City, Chippenham v Frome, Cirencester v Weymouth, Dorchester v Merthyr Town, Dunstable v Kettering, Histon v Chesham, Leamington v Slough. Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Basildon, Didcot v Marlow, Shortwood v Evesham, Swindon Supermarine v Slimbridge, Wantage v North Leigh, Wimborne v Bridgwater, Yate v Tiverton.

Wednesday, September 30
SOUTHERN LEAGUE Division One South & West: Larkhall v Mangotsfield.
WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: Fawley v Hamworthy Utd.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE Premier Division: Locks Heath v Fleetlands.
PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP First round: Paulsgrove v Liss Athletic (at Liss)

Friday, October 2
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Guiseley v Lincoln City (BT Sport)
FA VASE Second qualifying round: Sholing v US Portsmouth.

Saturday, October 3
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chester v Wrexham (2.00), Altrincham v Barrow, Eastleigh v Braintree, FC Halifax v Cheltenham, Gateshead v Dover Athletic, Grimsby v Forest Green Rovers, Kidderminster v Welling, Macclesfield v Boreham Wood, Torquay v Aldershot, Tramore v Bromley, Woking v Southport, VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Bath City v Basingstoke, Bishops Stortford v Maidenhead, Chelmsford v Oxford City, Eastbourne Borough v Concord, Ebbsfleet v Maidstone, Hayes & Yeading v Gosport Borough, Margate v Weston-super-Mare, Sutton v Hemel Hempstead, Trun v Havant & Waterlooville, Wealdstone v Dartford, Whitehawk v St Albans. FA TROPHY Preliminary round: Basildon v Cinderford, Molesley v Fleet Town, Larkhall v Wimborne, Petersfield Town v Winchester City, Tiverton v AFC Totton.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Cambridge City v Dunstable, Chesham v Dorchester, Frome v Leamington, Hitchin v Paulton, Kettering v Hungerford, King's Lynn v Chippenham, Merthyr v Biggleswade, Poole v Redditch, Slough v Bideford, St Neots v Cirencester, Stratford v Histon, Weymouth v Bedworth.

FA VASE Second qualifying round: Alton v Bracknell, Bemerton Hill v Andover Town, Blackfield v Ringwood, Bridport v Hythe & Dibden, Chertsey v Tadley Calleva, Chippenham Park v Newport Iow, Horndean v Longwell Green, Laverstock & Ford v Cowes, New Milton v Verwood, Oldland Abbottonians v Lymington, Romsey v Calne, Salisbury v Folland, Team Solent v Shaftesbury, Whitchurch v Bournemouth Poppies. More fix on page 29



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Non league FOOTBALL



Joyce poaches a first-half winner for Brockenhurst

BROCKENHURST picked up a much-needed second league win of the season at Alresford Town last Saturday.

Scott Joyce, left, who twice hit the woodwork, poached the winner midway through the first half. He won the ball in the air from a corner, Rich Hayter nodded it back across the six-yard box and Joyce hooked in from close range.

"We created enough chances in the

first half to have won two matches," said Badgers boss Pat McManus.

Alresford's John Howard was so incensed that he didn't get a spot kick when Hayter tackled him five minutes from time that he was shown a red card for protesting.

It's just another headache for the fourth-to-bottom Magpies who, with 13 players unavailable, were forced to call



off their Wyvern Combination game so that five reserve players could fill the first-team bench.

Brock were in action again on Tuesday, brushing Eversley & California aside 4-1 in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup second round at Grigg Lane. abba Jack (2), Callum Williams and sub Mark Barker were on target against the Combined Counties Division One visitors.

Brock boss praises the way Whites approached player

Salisbury impress McManus after Barker interest

SYDENHAMS Wessex leaders Salisbury have found an unlikely fan in Brockenhurst boss Pat McManus.

When the league's 'big guns' start casting their nets for talent lower down the table, it generally meets with a cool response from clubs who stand to lose one of their star players, writes Wendy Gee.

But McManus was so impressed with how Salisbury went about expressing their interest in Brock skipper Mark Barker that he felt the re-born Wiltshire giants deserved some praise for their "honourable" approach.

Instead of going behind Brock's back and unsettling the player, Salisbury's director of football Mick Jenkins phoned McManus directly to inform him that a notice of approach would be going in for Barker after the Badgers' big FA Cup showdown with AFC Portchester today.

McManus has spoken to Barker – nicknamed Sparky – in the meantime and, while flattered by Salisbury's interest, the sought-after wideman is going nowhere.

"I'm really pleased Sparky is staying, but I'm also pleased that Salisbury did things the right way," said the Grigg Lane boss.

"Mick Jenkins phoned me personally and said that, out of respect for me and the club, Salisbury didn't want to turn Mark's head before our FA Cup tie, but they wanted to make us aware that they were going to put in a seven-dayer after the Portchester game."

"They were impressed by Mark when we played them in the first game of the season and then watched him against Blackfield and Sholing."

"Not every club goes about things the right way, but Salisbury wanted to be seen to be doing the right thing and I appreciate that."

"I told Mark about their interest because nothing ever stays secret in non-League for long and I didn't want



10 Aug 2013 - Brockenhurst V Alresford Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division football - Brockenhurst's Mark Barker

the rumour mill getting back to him.

"Rather than go straight back to Mick Jenkins, I told Sparky to give it some thought, but he was adamant he wanted to stay."

"He's our longest-serving player

and he's in his eighth season with Brock now. With what our new chairman Stan Reid is looking to do, Brock is a completely different club now to two years ago and Mark wants to be part of it."

"He's a great lad with a great attitude."

"It sends out a good signal that one of our best players is prepared to stay at Brock when the biggest club in the league wants to sign him."

Boss hails defender

FORMER Eastleigh defender Ian Oliver has been praised for his professionalism by Wimborne Town boss Steve Cuss.

Oliver, below, was involved in a sickening collision which saw Magpies skipper Scott Arnold sustain a fractured cheekbone in their FA Cup win over Witheridge two weeks ago.

But he came to their rescue last Saturday, scoring a stunning stoppage-time equaliser to salvage a 3-3 Southern One South & West draw against Larkhall.

"What happened with the accidental collision with Scott wasn't easy to take for Ian, but he has dealt with it very well," said Cuss. "Although he is an experienced player, these things can affect you, but his performance was very good."

"He has scored twice now and both were goal-of-the-season contenders."

Carl Preston had made it 2-2 against Larkhall with 20 minutes remaining after goals from Larks skipper Jamie Lyons and Matt Thorne had edged the visitors in front, snuffing out Mark Gamble's Wimborne opener.

However, a second goal from veteran campaigner Lyons appeared to have won it for the Larkhall before Oliver's late intervention from around 20 yards.

Cuss, whose side are labouring just above the South & West basement zone after an indifferent start to the season, said: "I can't argue with the outcome."

"It was a really physical battle against a good and experienced side."

"We had to work hard to match them, so I felt a draw was a fair result."

"It was an outstanding strike from Ian, on the volley from outside the box."

Cuss, meanwhile, has described as "a big blow" the loss of Arnold to injury.

"Scott is one of the first names on the team sheet. It feels like something is missing when you lose him as a player and as captain," he said.

"He will be missed, but we hope he has his operation as quickly as possible and can start his recovery."



Ian Oliver

Non league FOOTBALL



Steve Moore

Hayter lends his support for player's benefit match

HAVANT & Waterlooville forward James Hayter was among a host of local footballers to support a benefit match for a popular non-League player who is battling cancer.

Brian Stock and Steve Fletcher also featured at Wimborne Town's Cuthbury ground in a fundraiser for Steve Moore, left.

Steve, 31, was on AFC Bournemouth's books as a teenager before moving into non-League with Wimborne, Bournemouth Poppies, Verwood, Christchurch and Dorchester.

In June, tests confirmed he was suffering from pancreatic cancer which had spread to his liver.

Desperate to help, Wimborne organised a match to support Steve, who lives with two-year-old son, Teddy, and wife, Paula, in Sturminster Newton.

Ex-Saints boss Harry Redknapp and son Mark have already donated £4,000 and the match raised another £6,000.

Paul Arnold, who managed Wimborne Town for five years, during which time Steve played for the side, said: "It's incredible to see the turnout, but it's a tough and very sad situation.

"We all just want to do the best we can to raise some money for Steve and his family."

Isle of Wight-born Hayter, who holds the record for the fastest ever Football

League hat-trick from his Cherries days, was pleased to lend his support for the cause.

"It's a great cause, but very difficult circumstances," he said.

"I know everyone was happy to come down and be part of it."

Ex-Cherries boss Sean O'Driscoll, who was at Dean Court when Steve's father, Dave, helped in the youth department, donated a signed Liverpool shirt for an auction held after the match.

Hayter scored twice for Havant on Tuesday as they knocked a young Cherries side out of the Hampshire FA Senior Cup. Lanre Azeze and Marvin Morgan were also on target.

Good start for player

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick is convinced Luke Holmes is destined for "bigger and better things" following his impressive start to life in the Southern Premier Division.

Holmes, son of former AFC Bournemouth star Matt, opened his account for the Dolphins when he netted the only goal in their 1-0 win at Biggleswade last Saturday, writes Neil Perrett.

The 18-year-old, released by Cherries at the end of last season, signed a one-year deal when he switched from Wimborne to Poole at the start of last month.

"He has coped with the step up really well," said Killick. "He gives us something different and is technically very good. We feel he is only going to improve.

"He scored a good goal and I am pleased to have him because I see the improvement in him.

"Hopefully, from his point of view, he can go on to bigger and better things."

Killick, who saw Poole register their third away win of the campaign, added:

"Everyone reacts differently to being released by a pro club, but Luke has a good mentality. I am sure his dad helps in relation to that because he is a very grounded and sensible guy.

"Luke seems to have dealt with it very well."

"I am not going to pretend this is the best league in the world, but you don't get many 18-year-olds playing week in, week out. A lot of them are good enough technically but, physically, sometimes they aren't."

"It is no mean feat to be playing regularly for an established team in this league and Luke is doing that."

With fit-again striker Richard Gillespie back in the starting line-up, Holmes was named on the bench for Tuesday's home derby against Dorchester Town.

He went on in the 64th minute, but the two sides lacked spark in a dour 0-0 draw watched by a 509 crowd.



Tom Killick

Former Sydenhams winger Cornick impresses at Yeovil

On-loan Cherries man says Grovers have been 'great'

ANOTHER former Sydenhams Wessex player is making his mark on the Football League.

Former Christchurch winger Harry Cornick took his Yeovil Town goals tally to three last weekend as he continued to make an impression for the Grovers on loan from AFC Bournemouth, writes Wendy Gee.

In 20-year-old Cornick's book, the 1-0 win-clincher at Crawley Town was the highlight of his Yeovil stay so far.

Not only did it earn the Grovers their first away victory of the Sky Bet League Two season, but it was a spectacular curling effort into the top corner.

Very pleased

"It was one which you don't score very often," smiled Cornick, who has had previous loan spells with non-League trio Welling United, Aldershot and Havant & Waterlooville.

"I've scored a couple like that in training, but never in first-team football. It's probably one of the best goals I've scored, so I'm very pleased with that one.

"Usually I'm on the right, but we'd had a corner and I'd ended up on the left-hand side. It came to me and I thought 'why not?'. I tried my luck and it flew in.

"It was a massive goal for us with our first away win and we've got to kick-start our season now."

Cornick didn't expect much game time after arriving at Paul Sturrock's Yeovil on loan from Bournemouth in early August.

But he has been pleasantly surprised to have started every game since coming off the bench to score



Harry Cornick (red) in action for Cherries in a friendly against Christchurch.

on his debut against Exeter City on the opening day.

"I thought I was going to come in and nick the odd game, but I've started every game recently and it's great," he added.

"It's been a lot different to what I'm

used to at Bournemouth playing under-21 games.

"It's a different style of play and a lot of hard work, but I'm really enjoying it and hopefully it can improve some aspects that I can take back to Bournemouth."

Former Poole Grammar School student Cornick caught Bournemouth's eye playing for Christchurch in the Wessex League and linked up with the Cherries in the summer of 2013 after finishing A-levels in biology, psychology and physical education.

Non league FOOTBALL



Nolan and Waller-Lassen return to Solent side for AFC Fawley win

JESSE Waller-Lassen was not the only player making a welcome return to the Team Solent ranks against Fawley AFC last Saturday.

Defender Patrick 'Pip' Nolan, left, also put his first tick on the 2015/16 register for the Southampton Solent University side after a brief stint with Salisbury, *writes Wendy Gee*.

Nolan – named man-of-the-match for Solent in April's Southampton Senior Cup final at St Mary's – made just five starts for the Whites before

having his request to leave granted by Salisbury manager Steve Claridge.

His return is a welcome boost for Solent boss James Taylor who rated the ex-Follands and Winchester man as a key member of his Sydenhams One/Senior Cup double-winning squad last term.

"Pip asked to be released from Salisbury and is back with us. I never wanted him to leave in the first place!" he said.

It was Waller-Lassen, though, who

stole the headlines following Solent's last-gasp 2-1 win over Fawley at Test Park.

The scoreline was still blank with five of the 90 minutes left to play but, like buses, the goals all came at once.

Waller-Lassen struck first, only for Charlie Willett to level seconds later; but Solent's ex-Tottenham Hotspur youth player – just back from a summer travelling and coaching in America – had the final say in stoppage time.

The flip side of Waller-Lassen's heroics was that word soon spread of his return, attracting notice of approach from Solent's Sydenhams Premier rivals Blackfield & Langley.

The Watersiders' interest came as no great surprise to Taylor, who shrugged: "They're all quick to do that. We've had several approaches for Jesse over the last year or so.

"It doesn't surprise me when a club with a bit of money tries to nick your best players."

'Double agent' Pell reveals Robins' top secret set-piece

Ex-Spitfires man set to face former team next month

FORMER Eastleigh midfielder Harry Pell has put his foot in it once again at Cheltenham Town.

First the 23-year-old spilled coffee on Robins' boss Gary Johnson's new carpet over the summer.

Now he has blabbed the name of a secret set-piece move, dubbed 'the weasel', that successfully featured in a 2-0 win over Macclesfield.

Pell enthused afterwards: "The gaffer will be absolutely buzzing with the second goal. Every day before a game we do our set-pieces and he wants them all to be spot on.

Well chuffed

"From pre-season he introduced this one called the weasel. I've probably said too much now, but it worked and I know for a fact that he will be well chuffed with that.

"We'll probably have to go and change the name of that now!"

Fortunately for ex-Hereford and AFC Wimbledon man Pell, Johnson saw the funny side.

"He's a double agent," he joked. "He put it out there, got it publicity and I might drop him as a result!"

Eastleigh are due a reunion with Pell when they travel to Cheltenham next month in the Vanarama National League.

Discount travel

Spitfires chairman Stewart Donald is offering discount travel to make it a big day out for supporters.

The Stoneham Lane club have chosen the Saturday, October 17 fixture as one for new travelling fans to get involved in.

Writing in the club's matchday programme, Donald explained: "Concentrating on our away following, we have announced our first away game



Harry Pell in action for Eastleigh last season.

where we are asking everyone to get involved.

"The idea is once a season we will pick a game where everyone makes the effort to attend to create a great day out for us all.

"It makes such a difference when we travel in decent numbers, like

Aldershot recently.

"It gives the players a huge lift and it also builds great togetherness.

"The away games are really enjoyable for me and I hope we can get a few new faces away from home.

"We have discounted the away travel to encourage support and I am

delighted that seats have sold very quickly, so thank you to those who are already backing the day."

Pell was on target again on Tuesday, scoring in a 2-2 Gloucestershire derby draw – dubbed El Glosico – with faltering league leaders Forest Green Rovers.

Joy of six in the cup

A HANDFUL of Hampshire Premier League clubs enjoyed big victories in the first round of the Southampton Senior Cup.

Stuart Findlay struck four times – in the sixth, 19th, 60th and 80th minutes – as Winchester Castle caned Otterbourne Reserves 6-0. Phil Kloppenbergh and Alex White also netted.

Otterbourne's first team also hit six, beating Totton & Eling 6-2.

The final three goals, though, all came in the last ten minutes from Steve Hall (2) and Chris Mason.

Tom Richards, Dan Strange and Tom Sands – the latter with his 12th league and cup goal of the season – had earlier netted with Sam House (who had opened the scoring in the second minute) and Loius Dear replying.

Netley Central Sports were quick off the mark in a 6-0 romp at Nursling.

James Farley put them in control with a double strike inside the opening 15 minutes.

Hat-trick

Micky Mullen added a third just past the hour mark, with Matt Journeaux (2) and Charlie Hinge completing the half-dozen haul in the last 10 minutes.

Steve Brown of Four Marks is tied with Sands as the Hampshire League's top scorer on 12 goals after a hat-trick against Lyndhurst.

A week after conceding 15 goals at Andover Lions in a League Cup tie, Lyndhurst travelled to Four Marks and were beaten 6-2.

Lyndhurst twice led, though, with the hosts' last three goals coming in the last ten minutes.

Brown twice levelled in the first half, before Julian Metaxa put them ahead for the first time four minutes into the second half.

Joe Callow netted in the 82nd and 85th minutes before Brown completed his triple in injury time.

Blu Boam and Lenny Burney replied as the Hampshire League XI were beaten 3-2 by the Southern Amateur League at Corinthian Casuals.

Non league FOOTBALL



Sholing star could be forced to leave football with injury

Castle still record holder as Royals' youngest player

ONE of local non-League's most decorated players is contemplating hanging up his boots at the age of 28.

Pete Castle, part of Sholing's victorious 2014 FA Vase side, is weighing up his future after suffering a catalogue of injuries over the last two years, *writes Wendy Gee*.

The powerful centre-back was struggling with a knee problem leading up to that magical day out at Wembley and was forced to make way for Dan Miller after 53 minutes of Sholing's 1-0 defeat of West Auckland Town.

After one unsuccessful knee operation that summer, he underwent another, which appears to have been a success.

But, frustratingly, other parts of his body are now buckling under the strain and he is currently sidelined with a bad hip.

At his age, Castle should still have years of football ahead of him, but he has packed a lot of action into his young life.

Worried

He started kicking a ball when he was five and still holds the record as the youngest player ever to have featured for Reading's first team at the tender age of 16 years and 49 days.

Born of Irish grandparents, Castle represented England at under-16 level and played for Ireland's under-18s.

His successful non-League club career has brought him league titles with Bashley (Southern One South & West) and Sholing (Sydenhams Wessex).

Football has been a huge part of his life but, after talking things through with his parents, he is worried that the short-term gain of playing on could lead to years of pain further down the line.

Frustrating

"There's a good chance I won't play again," he confessed.

"I still love playing, but it affects me too much after games."

"The Sholing physio thinks I might have a cartilage problem in the hip."

"It's so frustrating being injured all the time. I play three or four games and something new happens."

"When I say I'm 28 people are a bit surprised because I've been around a few clubs. I was still at school when I made my debut for Reading."

"I've achieved a lot – the Vase victory, especially, will live with me forever – and it will be hard not to play."

"All my friends are at Sholing and it's a special club to play for, but I've got to think of my future."



Pete Castle playing for Sholing FC v Methyr, Southern League South and West.

"My mum and dad live just over the way from Sholing's ground and they're not too keen on me playing because of later on in life."

"I work as a recruitment consultant, so that's not too much of a physical strain, but my mum said I

wouldn't want to be struggling in the future when I have kids."

Castle was due to see a doctor this week and get booked in for a scan.

"The extent of that will give me an idea of the best way to proceed," he said.

"It's tough watching the lads playing and not being out there myself."

"It's the game I've grown up loving and I enjoy all aspects of football, including the social side."

"But giving it up may be the right thing to do. My body needs a rest."

Injury woe for Castle

SHOLING boss Dave Diaper fully understands why injury-dogged defender Pete Castle is seriously considering early retirement.

Much as the strapping centre-back would leave a huge gap to fill at the Silverlake Arena, Diaper appreciates that the player's long-term well-being comes first.

"Pete's totally disillusioned with all the injuries he's getting. It's been one thing after another for him and it's his hip that's bothering now," he said.

"A body can only take so much and Pete's has taken a lot of batterings over the years."

"I'll be really disappointed to lose him, but I have to agree that he's got to think of his future."

"He'll want to play with his kids when he has them and he'll need mobility to do that."

"If playing football is going to affect your health further down the line, that's something you need to take seriously."

With Sholing launching into a three-year team rebuilding plan, Diaper could have done with Castle's wealth of experience to guide his young players out on the pitch.

"You can't buy the experience Pete's got to pass on to other players," he said.



Dave Diaper

Defender hunt over

STEVE Claridge's quest to find a central defender has been completed with the capture of ex-Eastleigh man Jack Vallis.

The Durrington-based defender has joined Sydenhams Wessex Premier leaders Salisbury from Southern Premier outfit Frome Town.

Vallis, 22, will provide cover, and another option in defence, for the recently departed Matt Burt.

Non league FOOTBALL



Eastleigh manager resigns from post with heavy heart

After three years, Dover loss proves final straw for Hill

YOU wouldn't have wanted to be a water bottle when Richard Hill lost his rag in the Eastleigh technical area. He had a habit of kicking them.

And woe betide any cub reporter who asked him a daft question during a post-match interview!

But while it's fair to say that Hill is the type of 'old school' manager who does not suffer fools gladly, the Spitfires' departed boss was never anything less than honest, open and upfront during three outstanding years at the Silverlake Stadium, *writes WENDY GEE*.

As much as the 52-year-old demanded high standards of others, the person Hill was most likely to scrutinise was himself.

By his own admission he had not slept well of late, frustrated by the cruel spate of injuries sweeping through the camp and haunted by the worst run of results – four defeats and a draw from five games – since he took charge in September 2012.

Suddenly everything was conspiring against him and his players and, as he watched his patched-up team succumb to a brutal 5-2 home defeat by Dover Athletic on Tuesday, he instinctively knew the time had come to bow out and let someone new take the helm of the club he ranks the best in non-league football.

"I've had feelings before when I felt I was banging my head against a brick wall, but Tuesday night was the first time I took my boots home with me. I normally leave them at the ground ready for work," he said.

"But from the day I first walked into the club, I knew there would be a right time to leave and this was it.

"I've had three good seasons at Eastleigh but there comes a point, especially in football, when you know it's the right time to go.

"At the end of the day, I've always said it's not important who manages Eastleigh, what's important is that the club is successful and I think it would benefit from fresh impetus and new ideas."

So strong was the Spitfires' start to the season that, despite the recent nosedive, they were still just three points outside the play-off zone prior to today's trip to Wrexham.

The decline was far from terminal but, as someone with the club's best interests at heart, Hill felt it wise to step aside now and give his successor ample time to turn the season around – just as he did in 2012/13 when taking over from Ian Baird.

"People might say it is knee-jerk, but is it?" he said.



Richard Hill thanks Eastleigh fans after last season's play off loss at Grimsby.

"Not when you haven't won for five games. We only had to pick up one point in each of those games and we'd have been right up there."

"By doing this now, whoever comes in as manager has got time to take this club at least to the play-offs."

"I could have hung around until Christmas or the whole of the season, but it's not my way."

"Last season we got 82 points and I don't think it will need as many this season to get into the play-offs. If it was 80, it means the club needs 62 points from 34 games."

"Whoever comes in, I feel I've given them time to be successful and at least get Eastleigh into the play-offs."

"We've had a bit of rotten luck with Paul Reid and Jamie Turley injured, Ben Strevens suspended and Andy Drury unavailable."

"We had three goalkeepers and four captains already this season and

maybe Eastleigh need someone new who might have a bit of good luck for a change."

"The club doesn't deserve to have gone through what it has and it's time for a new face and new ideas."

Hill leaves big boots to fill, having led the Spitfires from the Conference South basement to the National play-offs in just three magical years.

But that non-stop quest for perfection has taken its toll and he admitted: "I don't want to sound fluffy, but I have to think of my health."

"I've not been sleeping that great lately."

"I put a lot of pressure on myself, but I have to."

"How could I expect the players to have the desire to score in the last minute if I don't have that myself."

"I have to lead by example and I put pressure on myself to get the best out of me to be successful. When the play-

ers see that, they know they have to keep up with me. The lads are great. They've just hit a bad patch."

Hill may no longer be Eastleigh manager, but the club haven't seen the last of him.

"I've had three great years here and I've got an affinity with the club now," he said.

"The same as any supporter, I'll be delighted if we get to the play-offs, to Wembley or win the league – in fact I'll probably be there."

"I'll watch out for results and I'll get along and watch some games."

"Eastleigh are a fantastic football club with a fantastic chairman and fantastic fans."

"We've shared a lot of good times together and I leave with a heavy heart."

"But all things come to an end, nothing is forever, and I've got only good things to say about the club."

Eastleigh start hunt

EASTLEIGH have advertised the post of first-team manager following this week's shock departure of Richard Hill.

Questions had been asked on the fans' forum whether the club had a quick replacement lined up for their departed boss of three years – and the answer was a categoric no.

Under the heading "Job Vacancy: First Team Manager" the Spitfires placed an advert on their official club website on Thursday inviting "suitably qualified individuals" to apply. The club states that the salary is "dependent upon experience" and, as yet, have given no closing date for applications, saying: "The club will endeavour to respond promptly to any serious applications."

Anyone interested in the post should satisfy the following criteria:

- A working knowledge of National League Football or its equivalent
- Success in ability to manage a playing budget
- Excellent contacts within the football community
- A commitment to the local community
- A proven leader with a suitable track record
- A pleasing and willing personality

Applicants are asked to express their interest via email, preferably including a CV, to Mark Jewell, chief executive, at commercial@eastleighfc.com.

NEXT SATURDAY'S GAMES

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Brockenhurst, Hamworthy Utd v Moneyfields. Division One: Amesbury Town v Andover New Street, Christchurch v Downton, East Cowes Vics v Fleet Spurs, Pewsey Vale v AFC Stoneham, Totton & Eling v Portland Utd.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: Locks Heath v QK Southampton. Division One: Hayling Utd v Four Marks.

Combination West: Overton v Winchester Castle, QK Southampton v Otterbourne. HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP

First round: AFC Botley v Baffins MR Res, AFC Pennington v Hedge End Rangers Res, AFC Petersfield v Sholing Res, Andover Lions v Nursling, Southampton v Fleetlands, Burridge v Upton, Bush Hill v Gotham, Clanfield v Northwood St Johns, Comrades v Liss Athletic, Hamble Club v Fleetlands, Hamble Club Res v Sandhurst Sports, Headley End v Lyndhurst, Hedge End Rangers v Budd, Liphook v Bishops Waltham

Dynamons, Liss v Paulsgrove, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Wymering, Netley Central Sports v Sway, Otterbourne v Colden Common, Overton v Frimley Select, Shanklin v Infinity Res, Stockbridge v Horndean Utd, Sway Res v Infinity, Wimblecroft & Barton Sports v Broughton, Winchester Castle v Carberry, Yateley Utd v Bush Hill Res.

More fixtures on page 24.

Hill's place in Eastleigh's

THE date is September 12, 2012.

Richard Hill has just been appointed Eastleigh FC manager with the club 16th in the Conference South, the sixth tier of English football, *writes SIMON CARTER*.

Fast forward to September 23, 2015.

Richard Hill resigns as manager of Eastleigh FC, with the club now 11th in the Conference National, the fifth tier of English football.

A few weeks earlier, the Spitfires had sat second in the elite league of non league football.

But a run of five games without a win, culminating in a 5-2 home loss to Dover on Tuesday, had seen Eastleigh slip to three points outside the play-off zone.

Laughed

People would have laughed back in September 2012 if you'd told them Hill would leave Eastleigh with the club in the top half of the Conference National.

But that is an indication of the impact the former Northampton and Watford striker had at the Silverlake Stadium.

Hill's tenure at Stoneham Lane was one of almost interrupted improvement.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at Hill's success-packed time at Eastleigh.

2012/13

Hill won his first game as boss, 4-2 at the Silverlake Stadium against Maidenhead on September 15.

That result lifted them three places to 13th in the Conference South.

But it was by no means a tale of instant glories for Hill.

A run of five league defeats in a row, stretching from the end of November to New Year's Day, and culminating with a 3-1 loss at Bromley, sent Eastleigh tumbling into the relegation zone.

Yes, as amazing as it sounds now, in early January 2013 Eastleigh were in danger of being relegated to the Southern League.

There was an instant response, though, with Hill masterminding a run of 15 victories and only three defeats from the club's remaining 22 league matches.

Remarkably, that run took them from the relegation zone into the play-offs – a fourth place finish which had seemed unthinkable a few months earlier.

Eastleigh's promotion hopes ended in agonising fashion, however.

After losing the first leg of their play off semi 2-0 to Dover, Eastleigh forced penalties when they triumphed 3-1 in Kent in the second leg.

Eastleigh were beaten in the shoot-out, though.

Despite that bitter disappointment, however, the seeds of real success had already been sown.

Hill had quickly moved to strengthen his side after the loss at Bromley, bringing in defenders Dean Beckwith and Chris Todd from Luton and Forest Green respectively.

Up front, he signed the much travelled Chris Zebroski, while ex-Barnet goalkeeper Ross Flitney's initial loan move was soon made permanent.

Zebroski was sold to Newport County in the summer of 2013.



Richard Hill pictured at the Silverlake Stadium on the day he was appointed manager in September 2012.



Richard Hill is consoled by Eastleigh fans after last season's play off loss at Grimsby.

2013/14

There was no stopping Eastleigh in Hill's first full season in charge, as the Spitfires roared to the Conference South title.

The manager made a string of experienced

summer signings, bringing in ex-Havant defender Jamie Collins, former Barnet and Dagenham midfielder Ben Strevens, one-time Oxford United forward Yemi Odubade, and ex-Forest Green hot-shot Stuart Fleetwood.

By Conference South standards, it was a highly experienced squad – packed full of

players who had tasted promotion from the Conference Premier.

Eastleigh set their stall out early on, storming to the top of the table with seven wins in their first nine matches.

Though they were overtaken by Bromley – Eastleigh were second from November

Eastleigh's history books assured



Eastleigh celebrate clinching the Conference South title in 2014.



Richard Hill shows his frustration towards a linesman during Eastleigh's win against Torquay in August.

through to March – they were eventually crowned champions by a five-point margin.

A superb home record was key to the title triumph, Eastleigh turning the Silverlake Stadium into a fortress by winning 17 of their 21 home matches. Two were drawn and

just two were lost – one of the defeats came after they had been crowned champions.

2014/15

Eleven years after being crowned Wessex

League champions, Eastleigh had reached the pinnacle of non league football – the Conference Premier.

And ahead of their historic debut season rubbing shoulders with the elite of non league football, they flexed their financial

muscles by bringing in Oxford United hotshot James Constable, Jack Midson from AFC Wimbledon, Craig Stanley from Aldershot and defender Paul Reid from Northampton.

As a result, Eastleigh were instantly installed as a good bet for the play-offs.

And that is exactly what they managed to achieve – an incredible achievement for a club who two years and four months earlier had been in the Conference South drop zone!

Eastleigh won as many away games – 12 – as they did at the Silverlake in finishing fourth.

On their travels they beat a host of former Football League clubs – Bristol Rovers 2-1, Lincoln 2-1, Kidderminster 3-1, and also the reborn Chester and Halifax clubs.

They also drubbed Lincoln 4-0 at the Silverlake and handed out a similar thrashing to another ex-Football League outfit, Macclesfield, on a day when over 4,000 packed into the ground for the official opening of a new stand.

Season to remember

From averaging crowds of around 500 in the Conference South when Hill arrived, Eastleigh ended the greatest season in the club's history with an average league attendance of 1,752.

Amazingly, Eastleigh's fourth placed finish had left them just 270 minutes away from the Football League.

They were unable to overcome Grimsby in a two legged play off semi final, though, with the Mariners winning both legs to go with achieving the double over Hill's side in the regular season.

Still, it had been a season to remember.

2015/16

Ahead of Hill's fourth season in the Eastleigh hot-seat, the club again underlined their ambition in the transfer market.

They signed ex-West Ham midfielder Josh Payne and former QPR winger Lee Cook.

Raised eyebrows

But it was the arrival of ex-Saints full back Dan Harding, who had been released by Nottingham Forest, that raised eyebrows.

Boasting a squad packed with so much experience and goalscoring power – Eastleigh had ended their first season in Conference Premier football as the division's second top scorers with 87 strikes – the Spitfires started the season well fancied by the bookmakers to do well.

The early signs were certainly encouraging, with the 3-2 home win over Torquay United lifting Eastleigh to second – their highest ever position in the pyramid.

But Tuesday's 5-2 setback against Dover extended their winless league streak to five games.

Remarkably, that was the first time Eastleigh had gone five league games without a win since Hill presided over those five successive Conference South defeats in November, December and early January during 2012/13.

In the intervening period, Richard Hill had overseen Eastleigh FC's greatest days.

For that, his place in the club's history books is assured.

Memorable moments un

RICHARD Hill this week shocked Eastleigh fans by quitting as manager of the Conference National club.

In his three-year spell as the club's manager, he has led the Spittfires to the highest league positions in their history.

Here, the *Sports Pink* recalls some of Eastleigh's best league victories during his time in charge.

January 8, 2013
Eastleigh 5 Billericay 0

Just a few days after Eastleigh had lost at Bromley to slip into the Conference South drop zone, the Spittfires' recovery started with a five-goal romp.

Debutant defender Dean Beckwith had an instant impact, heading in a seventh minute opener from a corner.

Damien Scannell went on to score twice, and keeper Sam Beasant registered an own goal after dropping a Scannell corner over his own line.

Mark Hughes completed the nap hand late on as Eastleigh avenged an early season 4-0 loss at Billericay that resulted in manager Ian Baird getting the sack and Hill coming in.

February 16, 2013
Eastleigh 1 Chelmsford 0

Jai Reason scored the only goal from the penalty spot as Eastleigh zoomed up to sixth with a sixth win in seven games.

Chelmsford were among the clubs challenging for a play-off place, too, so this was a major morale-booster for Hill and his fast-improving squad.

May 4 2013
Dover 0 Eastleigh 2

After losing the first leg of their Conference South play-off final 3-1 at the Silverlake Stadium, Eastleigh had it all to do in the second leg in Kent.

Remarkably, they almost did it!

Goals from Glenn Southam and sub Damien Scannell gave Hill's men a 2-0 win which saw the aggregate score level at 3-3.

That meant penalties, but Dover won it when their keeper Mitch Walker saved spot-kicks from both Dean Beckwith and Chris Zebroski.

December 17, 2013
Dover 1 Eastleigh 2

Eastleigh came from behind in a dramatic finale to close the gap on leaders Bromley to seven points with a game in hand.

The visitors fell behind with just 13 minutes left at The Crabble, Chris Kinnear heading in.

Hill's men quickly levelled through Ben Strevens before Stuart Fleetwood popped up in stoppage time to score from five yards.

The result underlined just how tough Hill's Eastleigh were to beat.

March 25, 2014
Eastleigh 6 Dorchester 0

Jai Reason fired his second hat-trick of the season as Eastleigh struck six goals for the only time in Hill's tenure as manager.



Chris Todd and Dean Beckwith with the Conference South title trophy after beating Basingstoke in April 2014.



Jai Reason in action for Eastleigh during the home win over Chelmsford City in February 2013.

The attacking midfielder opened the scoring in the 16th minute before providing the corner from which Chris Todd headed a second.

Ben Wright made it 3-0 before Reason curled in a wonder strike just before half-time.

Reason had to wait until 10 minutes from time to complete his triple, before Yemi Odubade completed the half-dozen haul.

It was a good night all round for Eastleigh, as leaders Bromley's loss at Staines meant the Spittfires were only two points off top spot with two games in hand.

April 8, 2014
Bromley 1 Eastleigh 2

Two goals from Salisbury City loanee Ben Wright gave Eastleigh a crucial victory against their fellow automatic promotion

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Under Richard Hill's reign



Richard Hill and the Eastleigh bench celebrate the final whistle at Bristol Rovers last March.



Jai Reason fires Eastleigh's third goal in the 4-0 thrashing of Macclesfield Town in front of a 4,000 plus crowd last February.

hopefuls.

Wright opened the scoring in the first half and converted a second half penalty after the hosts had levelled.

Eastleigh's win ensured they opened up an eight-point lead at the top, and they still had

a game in hand on Sutton and Bromley.

April 18, 2014
Eastleigh 2 Basingstoke Town 1

A crowd of over 1,600 saw goals from Yemi

Odubade and Ben Wright clinch the Conference South title.

The north Hampshire visitors replied late on through Liam Enver-Marum, but that did little to spoil Eastleigh's party.

November 22, 2014
Aldershot 0 Eastleigh 2

Three days before this game, Aldershot – for so long a former Football League club – had stunned Pompey by knocking them out of the FA Cup at the Recreation Ground.

Eastleigh, though, went to the same ground and won a Conference Premier game 2-0.

Craig McAllister gave them the lead on the stroke of half-time, with Stuart Fleetwood completing the victory with a 65th minute spot-kick.

The result underlined that no-one could underestimate Richard Hill's Spitfires in the elite level of non league football.

December 28, 2014
Braintree 1 Eastleigh 5

The biggest away win of Richard Hill's Eastleigh managerial career came three days after Christmas last year.

Just a few days after Eastleigh had won 4-3 at AFC Telford, Craig Stanley put them ahead in Essex.

Hat-trick

Mitch Brundle levelled just before half-time, setting the stage for James Constable to hammer a second half triple.

Constable scored in the 54th and 55th minutes and completed his first Eastleigh hat-trick in the 77th minute – two minutes after Jack Midson had made it 4-1.

February 28, 2015
Eastleigh 4 Macclesfield 0

In front of a Silverlake Stadium record crowd of 4,126, Eastleigh hammered their high-flying former Football League visitors.

They were ahead within 12 minutes, Thierry Audel putting through his own net, before James Constable added a second in the 54th minute.

Jai Reason and Deon Burton completed one of Eastleigh's most impressive victories of a memorable debut Conference Premier campaign.

March 7, 2015
Bristol Rovers 1 Eastleigh 2

A week later, the Spitfires ended Rovers' 20-game unbeaten Conference Premier run in front of a crowd of 7,371.

That was the biggest attendance any Eastleigh team had ever played in front of in the club's entire history.

Full back Mike Green fired Eastleigh into a seventh minute lead, and Jack Midson doubled that advantage in front of a stunned Memorial Stadium crowd in the 63rd minute.

April 25, 2015
Eastleigh 2 Kidderminster 1

The Spitfires entered this game knowing three points would clinch them a play-off place in their first ever Conference Premier season.

After a minute, they trailed due to a David Wright strike.

But the bumper crowd of 4,024 saw the hosts hit back in the second half through Craig Stanley (54 mins) and James Constable (74 mins).

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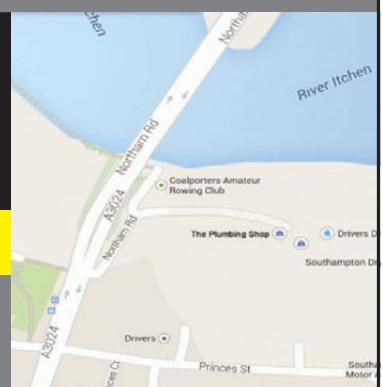
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Southampton buoyant ahead of Hamble clash



Trojans (red) v Southampton.



Hamble.



Salisbury (yellow) v Southampton.



Southampton University.

A CONFIDENT performance in the group stages of the Hampshire Cup has put Southampton in good shape for next Saturday's South League Hampshire/Surrey Regional Division One derby against Hamble

at the Sports Centre (1.30).

Southampton beat Hamble, Salisbury, the University and held Trojans to qualify for the last eight and having defeated next week's opponents in the Wide Lane pool will be optimistic of opening their SL programme on a winning note.

Hamble, having lost Nick

Williams to newly promoted South Premier League neighbours Winchester, will rely on a blend of youth and experience for what promises to be a demanding Regional Division One campaign.

Don't miss Mike Vimpany's hockey reports throughout the 2015/16 season in the *Daily Echo*. All pictures by Rachel Adams.



Salisbury.



Southampton.



Trojans.



Southampton (white) v Hamble.



Trojans (red) v Southampton.



Mitch Davis (Hamble) in action against Southampton.



Hamble score against Southampton.

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HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



#greatestcape tweets

Shane Warne (@ShaneWarne): Well done boys, glad that fighting spirit is still alive and well.... Now celebrate properly !!!!!!!

Mark Nicholas (@mcjnicholas): a wonderful achievement of character and skill. Fidel a breath of fresh air. Challengers next year..

Southampton FC (@SouthamptonFC): Congratulations, @hantscricket! We do love a #greatestcape... #saintsfc

James Vince (@vincey14): Yeeeeeeeeeee. U beauttyyyyyyyy. Some bus journey this is going to be. Thank you @Yorkshireccc #GreatEscape.

Mason Crane (@craneo23): What an amazing end to the most amazing first season! Many many more left hopefully #hampshire #greatestcape. #greatestcape trending... Ohhhh what a feeling this is

Fidel Edwards (@EdwardsFidel): they said it would be a great escape.... But now I guess u can say the #greatestcape Hampshire Hampshire Hampshire

EastleighFC (@eastleighfc): Congrats to our friends at @ hantscricket #GreatEscape

Winchester City FC (@wincityfc): Congratulations to @hantscricket on their great escape & staying up. Enjoy the celebrations!

Sean Ervine (@slug_7) #thegreatestcape boom!

Michael Bates (@batesy10_16) Chuffed for all my old team mates at @hantscricket securing first division cricket for next season.... just #greatestcape.

Shaun Udal (@shaggyudal): Congrats to all @hantscricket !!! #Greatestcape #unbelievable look forward to Sunday night awards dinner @daws128 @vincey14 @ slug_7

Matt Le Tissier (@mattletiss7) The great escape! Well done @ hantscricket

Liam Dawson (@daws128): WE ARE STAYING UP SAY WE ARE STAYING UP WE ARE STAYING UP SAY WE ARE STAYING UP WE ARE STAYING UP WE ARE STAYING UP DU HAMPSHIRE DU HAMPSHIRE

Will Smith (@Will Smith _2): I've been privileged to have experienced some amazing things, but this takes the biscuit! What a team effort last few games! #greatest-cape

Hampshire physio Thihan 'T' Chandramohan (@tphysio): Yes lads what a day!! @hantscricket #greatestcape

Chris Wood (@CWoody27): YEEEEEEESSSSSSSS @hantscricket Hampshire analyst Joe Maiden (@ maidenj7) YEEEEEEESSSSSSSS!! We are staying up!!! #GreatEscape #Complete

Jimmy Adams (@Jhkadams) the-coolerking #greatestcape (*with a picture of Steve McQueen)

The Great Escape was a nailbiter. . .

FORGET T20 Finals Day, the last day of this year's LV County Championship provided a fitting finale to the season.

There was all the drama you could wish for at Trent Bridge and Headingley as Hampshire completed their Great Escape, writes Simon Walter.

A remarkable penultimate day had seen Ryan McLaren and Gareth Berg extend their ninth-wicket stand to 123 before Fidel Edwards completed the second ten-for of his first-class career.

Chasing 200 for their third win in five matches under James Vince, Jimmy Adams and Michael Carberry began the final day on 89-0.

Needing a win and a Sussex defeat at Headingley, where champions Yorkshire began the final day on 298-9 - a lead of 301 - hopes were high of an improbable survival. This is how it unfolded.

10:38 Jimmy Adams reached his fifth half century of the season by punching (81 balls, six fours) Stuart Broad back down the ground for three runs. Hampshire 95-0.

10:43 Yorkshire were bowled out for 305 after Jack Brooks and Tim Bresnan were bowled out in quick succession by Liam Hatchett and Steve Magoffin. It meant Sussex needed 309 for a win, but a draw would be enough for them to stay up at Hampshire's expense.

10:55 Jimmy Adams drove fellow southpaw Harry Gurney for Hampshire's first boundaries of the morning to reduce the target to double figures and move to 59. Hampshire 105-0

11:01 Sussex got off to the worst possible start when captain Ed Joyce (1) was bowled by Jack Brooks with only three runs on the board. The previous evening, Joyce had said: "Hopefully the wicket's flattened out enough for us to chase down 300 because Hampshire are doing really well."

"Fair play to them, it's a fantastic effort to come back



Michael Carberry and Will Smith (left), secured a crucial third win in five games (Pics by Nottingham Post)

in a battle that looked they'd lost four or five games ago.

"Hats off to Hampshire. If they manage to stay up, it's certainly down to them. It all comes down to one big day."

11:07 After a relatively circumspect start, Carberry drove Gurney back down the ground for his first boundary of the day at the end of the its ninth over: 114-0 (Carberry 43, Adams 63).

11:15 Jimmy Adams loves playing at Trent Bridge, it's where he made his career-best score 262 not out in 2006,

and he went to 70 by driving Gurney for four more through mid-wicket. 121-0.

11:19 Carberry cut Broad for successive fours to third man to reach a 110-ball fifty (eight fours). 129-0

11:29 A change of bowling at both ends when Stuart Broad (6-2-18-0) and Harry Gurney (6-1-22-0) were replaced by recalled England slow left-arm Samit Patel and medium-pacer Jake Ball. Broad's performance was an improvement on day three when he followed his 2-73 with 0-26 from three

overs as Adams and Carberry hit him for three fours apiece.

11:30 129-1 Adams was out for 70 (113 balls, nine fours) when he dragged on against Jake Ball. But good news from Headingley where Sussex were 36-2 when Chris Jordan was lbw to Brooks.

11:32 129-2 James Vince was bowled first ball by a Jake Ball off-cutter that knocked back middle and off, but even that could not halt Hampshire's progress. 129-2

11:37 Jack Brooks's 300th

first-class wicket saw Matt Machan caught behind as Sussex slipped to 36-3

11:43 Will Smith got off the mark by driving Jake Ball for two fours in four balls. Easy game... 137-2

12:00 Carberry (64) guided Ball for four to the boundary at fine-leg. 148-2

12:01 Smith moved to 18 with successive fours, the second a pull, against Brett Hutton. 156-2

12:03 Tim Bresnan bowled Chris Nash to reduce Sussex to 56-4

12:10 Sussex collapsed to

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



61-5 when Luke Wright (2) was caught behind by Jonny Bairstow after nicking a drive against Tim Bresnan

12:18 Hampshire closed in on a pre-lunch finish when Will Smith, back on the ground where he played for Notts from 2002-2006, slog-swept Samit Patel for four to go to 30 from only 40 balls. 168-2

12:25 Carberry reduced the target from 27 to nine in one over against Samit Patel.

He began it by coming down the track to hit the slow left-armers back over his head for Hampshire's first six of the match. It was ten in two balls when he stroked four more through the off side. And he completed the over with successive fours, driven through cover and back down the ground. 191-2

12:27 After Smith pulled Mullaney for four Carberry levelled the scores with another boundary against Samit who was hit for 22 in seven balls. 199-2

12:29 Hampshire won by



Hampshire's coach journey home... (Twitter/@hantscricket)

eight wickets to complete half the equation needed to stay up, with Carberry clipping Patel for a single to finish on 84. Smith, Hampshire's second highest run scorer behind Carberry (1129 at), took his aggregate for the season to with an un-beaten 34.

Captain Vince said: "We're obviously delighted to win this game, but we can't cel-

ebrate properly until we know what's happened at Headingley."

All it needed at this point was for Sussex, who were 83-5, to lose to Yorkshire... Notts bowling: Broad 9-2-44-0, Gurney 12-2-34-0, Hutton 10-2-41-0, Patel 8-3-35-0, Ball 10-3-30-2, Root 1-1-0-0, Mullaney 3-0-6-0.

12:39 Sussex were 88-5 at lunch against Yorkshire at

Michael Carberry and Will Smith put on 79 in less than 15 overs. Nottinghamshire bowler Brett Hutton looks on...

Headingley, needing to survive the last two sessions... Yardy 15, Brown 16

13:35 Sussex 118-5. Good shout for lbw turned down. "Get on with it, not out!" is the shout from a Sussex fan, audible on the radio commentary Hampshire listened to on the bus home.

14:04 Mike Yardy (41) received a standing ovation and was applauded off the field by Yorkshire's players when the final innings of his career ended with a fine catch by Alex Lees at first slip off Bresnan. His dismissal also ended any realistic hope Sussex had. 142-6.

14:15 Having put on 81 wicket with Yardy, Ben Brown (42) followed a soon after when Jack Leaning took a wonderful reaction catch at short leg off England's Adil Rashid. Sussex 148-7

14:25 The Argus's Sussex CCC correspondent, Steve Hollis, tweeted "The end is night I'm afraid," when

Steve Magoffin was lbw to Rashid. 154-8

14:26 Mason Crane tweeted: YORKSHIRE YORKSHIRE YORKSHIRE #greatescape

14:47 With Sussex 186-8, Jimmy Adams tweeted: Can the overweight lady get a shift on and sing... #stevenqueen (Please...).

14:56 Sussex 199-9. He had a miserable time of it at The Ageas Bowl last week, but on his 28th birthday Adam Lyth did Hampshire a favour by pinning Ashar Zaidi lbw for a 40-ball 47. Great bowling change by Andrew Gale.

15:10 Hampshire's Great Escape became a reality when Rashid trapped Carl Liddle lbw to complete Yorkshire's win by 100 runs. Hampshire, having been 26 points adrift of Sussex and Worcestershire at the foot of the table after ten games, took their tally from 76 to 161 in their last six under James Vince to pip Sussex to seventh place by two points.

LV= County Championship statistics

MOST RUNS (average in brackets)
 Michael Carberry 1129 (38.93)
 Will Smith 859 (34.36)
 Jimmy Adams 760 (41.73)
 James Vince 743 (28.57)
 Liam Dawson 695 (34.75)
 Gareth Berg 672 (32)
 Adam Wheater 563 (26.8)
 Sean Ervine 508 (33.86)
 Joe Gatting 280 (46.66)
 Sean Terry 232 (25.77)
 Danny Briggs 231 (21)
 Ryan McLaren 123 (30.75)
 Lewis McManus 120 (32.43)
 Chris Wood 78 (39)
 Andre Adams 58 (14.5)
 Jackson Bird 54 (6.75)
 James Tomlinson 52 (5.2)
 Ryan Stevenson 34 (11.33)
 Fidel Edwards 32 (10.66)
 Mason Crane 18 (9)
 Brad Wheal 17 (3.4)

MOST WICKETS (average in brackets)
 Fidel Edwards 45 (20.88)
 Gareth Berg 42 (28.11)
 Liam Dawson 22 (38.63)
 Danny Briggs 19 (37.42)
 Jackson Bird 19 (39.73)
 James Tomlinson 18 (41.88)
 Ryan McLaren 11 (38.09)
 Mason Crane 10 (33.60)
 Andre Adams 9 (39.88)
 Brad Wheal 8 (49.12)
 Sean Ervine 8 (55.37)
 Will Smith 3 (37)
 Ryan Stevenson 3 (71.66)
 Chris Wood 2 (50.5)
 James Vince 1 (74)

MOST CATCHES
 Adam Wheater 26
 Will Smith 19
 Sean Ervine 15
 Liam Dawson 11
 Gareth Berg 10
 Michael Carberry 4
 Lewis McManus 4
 Jimmy Adams 4
 Sean Terry 4
 Andre Adams 3
 Joe Gatting 1
 James Tomlinson 1
 Mason Crane 1
 Fidel Edwards 1
 Ryan McLaren 1
 Brad Wheal 1
 Jackson Bird 1
 Danny Briggs 1

MOST RUNS (division one)
 James Hildreth (Somerset) 1390 (64.38)
 Scott Borthwick (Durham) 1286 (42.86)
 Marcus Trescothick (Somerset) 1284 (45.85)
 Luke Wright (Sussex) 1210 (46.53)
 Michael Carberry (Hampshire) 1129 (38.93)
 Nick Compton (Middlesex) 1123 (38.72)
 Jonny Bairstow (Yorkshire) 1108 (92.33)
 Mark Stoneman (Durham) 1090 (34.06)
 Tom Fell (Worcestershire) 1084 (41.69)
 Riki Wessels (Nottinghamshire) 1033 (39.73)

MOST WICKETS (division one)
 Chris Rushworth (Durham) 83 (20.61)
 Steve Magoffin (Sussex) 69 (24.05)
 James Harris (Middlesex) 69 (25.73)
 Jack Brooks (Yorkshire) 65 (22.76)
 Graham Onions (Durham) 65 (26.83)
 Joe Leach (Worcestershire) 59 (30.03)
 Jeetan Patel (Warwickshire) 58 (25.27)
 Jack Shantry (Worcestershire) 57 (25.08)

Berg and Fidel both shred

AS another cricket season closes, there is much to reflect on.

Hampshire's dramatic LV County Championship campaign included contributions from 21 players, all of whom are featured here, plus the T20/ limited-overs specialists, Owais Shah and Yasir Arrafat.

ANDRE ADAMS

Took nine wickets at 39 apiece before retiring because of a persistent knee injury, which made him realise his 39 year-old body was no longer up to the rigours of first-class cricket.

The Kiwi is now coaching back in Auckland. 4/10

JIMMY ADAMS

Relinquished Hampshire's County Championship captaincy midway through his benefit season.

But he was back to his best in September, when he was needed most, scoring 278 runs at 69.5 in his last four innings while sharing in two century stands with opening partner Michael Carberry.

Hampshire's top scorer in the Royal London One-Day Cup, a competition he will remember most for the abandoned clash against Glamorgan at The Swalec Stadium, a decision made when he was struck on the helmet.

His 361 RLODC runs at 60 including a magnificent 97 in the quarter-final defeat to Gloucestershire at Bristol.

But he was dropped from the T20 team and, despite this month's Indian summer, had his least productive first-class season since 2010. 6/10

YASIR ARAFAT

Only Danny Briggs and Chris Wood took more T20 wickets, but Hampshire did not get the best out of the former Sussex all-rounder.

Took 2-27 against Essex on debut and his match-winning 4-37 in the final group game against Somerset secured Hampshire's passage into the quarter-finals.

But he was not as consistent as Hampshire would have hoped and let his teammates down at the death in the Royal London One-Day Cup quarter-final defeat. 6/10

GARETH BERG

Hampshire's Player of the Season, the winter signing from Middlesex is the county's Most Valuable Player - 12th in the overall LV County Championship standings - after averaging more with the bat (32) than he does with the ball (28).

Only Fidel Edwards has taken more than his 42 Championship wickets and he also weighed in with nearly 700 runs.

Did not get the century or five-wicket haul his performances deserved or the opportunities in white-ball cricket he would have liked.

But his Championship consistency was an incredible effort considering he did not play for most of last season because of the freak shoulder infection that persuaded Middlesex to cancel his contract last year.

And he produced when with bat and ball when it was needed most, not least in the final game at Trent Bridge. 9/10

JACKSON BIRD

Nineteen wickets at nearly 40 apiece was not what was hoped for from Hampshire's principal overseas signing, who missed the first two months of the season with a freak



Jimmy Adams has ended a below-par season with an excellent September



Jackson Bird celebrates one of his 19 LV County Championship wickets, against Sussex at Hove in June (LMI Photography)



Mason Crane on his LV County Championship debut (Neil Marshall)



Michael Carberry

DANNY BRIGGS

After playing eight of the first ten Championship games, he was dropped when Liam Dawson returned from his loan at Essex, while the emergence of Mason Crane ensured he did not play in any of the last six.

The slow left-armer became the youngest

English spinner to take 100 first-class wickets since Derek Underwood in 2011, but his future at Hampshire would seem to be as a T20 player as he was also limited to just three appearances in the 50-over Royal London One-Day Cup.

He and Chris Wood, another player fast be-

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

ewd Hampshire signings



Gareth Berg



Liam Dawson had an outstanding second half of the season



Danny Briggs in action in the T20 Blast semi-final against Lancashire

coming a white-ball specialist, were Hampshire's joint top wicket-T20 takers with 18 apiece. 6/10

MICHAEL CARBERRY

The only Hampshire batsman to make more than 1,000 runs in the LV County Champion-

ship, this was his most prolific first-class season since 2010.

And only his record-breaking opening partner James Vince scored more than his 456 runs for Hampshire in the T20 Blast.

The left-hander was also a consistent performer in the Royal London One-Day Cup



Fidel Edwards has taken 45 first-class wickets at 20.88 for Hampshire

but the centuries he prides himself on were conspicuous by their absence.

For the first time since signing for Hampshire in 2005, he did not register a hundred in any competition (after his 146 in the opening friendly against Loughborough UCCE).

But he whetted the appetite for next season

when he finished with a flourish at Trent Bridge. 7/10

MASON CRANE

Emerged as one of the country's most exciting spin talents, making his debuts in all three formats and taking some big scalps along the way.

Burst on to the scene with the wickets of Kumar Sangakkara and Vikram Solanki when he made his debut in the T20 Blast in July.

Became the youngest Hampshire player to take a 'five-fer' in the LV County Championship when he took 5-35 against Warwickshire last month, including Jonathan Trott, having accounted for Durham's top four in his previous outing.

With ten wickets at 22.8 from his first ten Championship appearances, he even had Steve Harmison suggesting he accompany England's squad for their forthcoming series against Pakistan.

Did not play in the last two County Championship matches after conceding 108 from 17 wicketless overs against Somerset at Taunton earlier this month.

But Crane will no doubt progress further along the leg-spin learning curve when he plays in England U19s' tri-series in Colombo, a team that will be captained by his Hampshire spin twin Brad Taylor.

He and Taylor could be U19 World Cup winners by the time they report back for pre-season training in March. 7/10

LIAM DAWSON

It was a season of two halves for the 25 year-old. Loaned to Essex at his own request after being dropped with 309 runs at 23.76 to his name from the first seven matches, mostly as an opener.

After scoring 169 runs at 56 in a couple of division two matches, he was recalled and responded with an outstanding last two months of the season.

He was very impressive in the Royal London One-Day Cup, topping Hampshire's batting averages and wicket chart (324 runs at 64.8 and 15 wickets at 22.46).

Finished the season with a Bradmanesque September in the County Championship, his 360 runs at 90 apiece in the last four games including 140 against champions Yorkshire.

Also recorded his first five-for for two years (5-139 in the draw against Somerset at Taunton). 8/10

FIDEL EDWARDS

Like Gareth Berg, the former West Indies star has been an inspired signing in the LV County Championship.

Has taken an incredible 45 wickets at 20.88 since making his debut in May, having been spotted playing against Hampshire's during the county's pre-season tour of Barbados.

Not at his most effective in the limited-overs matches, but has often been unplayable in the Championship since returning from the Caribbean Premier League, taking 32 wickets at 17 apiece in the last five matches.

Without him, Hampshire would have had little to play for in September.

At his best on the big occasion, recording only the second first-class ten-for of his career in the crucial final match at Trent Bridge.

Will return next year. 9/10

● Continued on next page

Wheal and Stevenson ex

SEAN ERVINE

Made Hampshire's first century of the season back in April but his season was disrupted when he fractured a finger against Sussex at Hove in June.

Hardly featured in the Royal London One-Day Cup.

Unfortunately his spectacular diving catch on the cover-point boundary to dismiss Jos Buttler was not enough to prevent Hampshire suffering another T20 semi-final defeat at Edgbaston last month. 6/10.

JOE GATTING

Unfortunate to be released after topping Hampshire's batting averages in the LV County Championship, albeit after only four appearances, with 280 runs at 46.66.

Top scored with an unbeaten 64 out of 176 in the first innings against Middlesex at Lord's in June and with 59 when Hampshire followed on against Worcestershire at New Road in their next game.

Deserved another chance but with the likes of homegrown duo Tom Alsop and Joe Weatherley pushing hard for a first-team place, the decision was made not to renew his two-year contract. 6/10

RYAN MCLAREN

Took 7-114 on debut at Durham and bowled better this month than figures of 11 wickets at 38 suggest.

But like all the best all-rounders, he made up for that with some vital lower-order runs, not least his 52 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge this week.

He may well return next season as a Kolpak, having signed this year's short-term deal as an overseas player. 7/10

LEWIS MCMANUS

Having impressed on debut against Yorkshire at Headingley in May, the 20 year-old wicketkeeper-batsman from Bournemouth made a vital 53 not out to secure Hampshire a dramatic and draw against Durham at The Ageas Bowl in mid-July.

It was a result that began the county's impressive second half of the season and turned out to be more important than anyone imagined at the time. 6/10

OWAIS SHAH

Only James Vince and Michael Carberry scored more T20 runs than the T20 specialist's 402, which was his best return in an English T20 season for five years.

His two fifties (58no and 64) came against former county Middlesex. 6/10

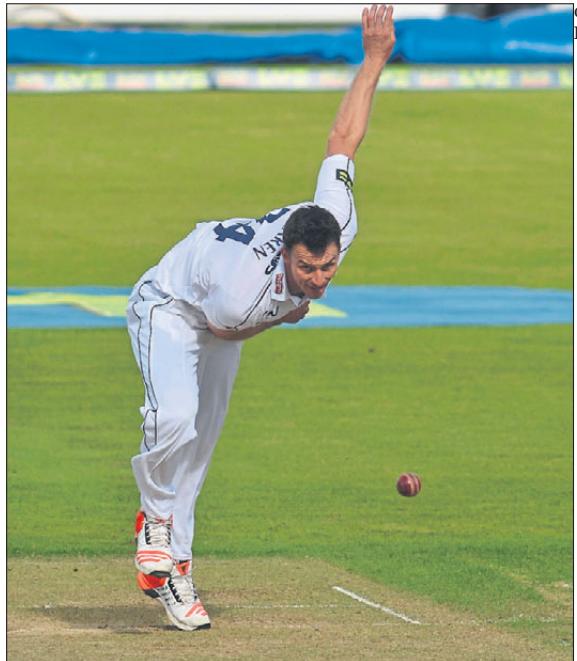
WILL SMITH

Would have hoped for more runs in the LV County Championship after passing 1,000 first-class runs for the first time in his debut season with Hampshire.

But only Michael Carberry scored more thanks his 859 at 34 and, again while not as effective as in his first season with Hampshire, he was also one of the county's leading T20 bowlers with his canny off-spin.

Did not deserve to finish on the losing side in the Royal London One-Day Cup quarter-final against the eventual winners Gloucestershire at Bristol, where his 25-ball 50 gave Hampshire a total they should have defended.

His season was also memorable for a couple of stunning catches against Sussex at the Ageas Bowl, at short-leg in the County



Ryan McLaren on his Yorkshire debut



James Vince during his century in the T20 quarter-final at Worcester



Will Smith

Championship and a diving effort at backward point in the T20 Blast. 7/10

RYAN STEVENSON

Enjoyed a meteoric rise after arriving on trial in July, midway through a season that he began by moving up four levels in the Devon



Ryan Stevenson in action against Yorkshire

amid to play for Torquay CC.

Having started the summer focused working in his mum's Post Office while setting up a campsite business with his girlfriend on his dad's chicken farm, the 23 year-old was awarded a two-year contract six weeks after

his arrival at The Ageas Bowl.

After impressing for the seconds, the all-rounder made his first-class debut against Durham earlier this month and played in three of Hampshire's last four LV County Championship games. 6/10

Exciting finds for Hants



Brad Wheal



Sean Terry



Adam Wheater



Chris Wood

SEAN TERRY

Guided Hampshire to a vital first Championship win, by six wickets against Sussex at Hove in June, with an unbeaten 62 that proved crucial in the context of the relega-

tion battle.

He also top scored with 52 in Hampshire's second innings against Middlesex at Lord's, albeit in a losing cause, but only played one more match and did not feature at all in the second half of the season. 6/10

JAMES TOMLINSON

It was impossible not to sympathise with Hampshire's veteran left-arm bowler as he did not play any part in the last two months of the season.

Began the season with 15 wickets at 29 apiece but struggled for form after taking 4-86 against champions Yorkshire at Headingley in May and only managed another three wickets at a cost of 105 each.

Devastated to be dropped for what would have been his first appearance at Lord's when Hampshire played Middlesex at the end of June, he only played one more match. Is contracted for another season. 5/10

JAMES VINCE

Will prefer to remember the season for his outstanding form in the Natwest T20 Blast, in which he broke Jason Roy's domestic runs record with 710 at 59.16.

His match-winning first T20 century in the quarter-final at Worcester was one of the season's highlights.

Became Hampshire's captain in all formats when Jimmy Adams stepped down as skipper in the County Championship, a period that coincided with his best form of a disappointing four-day campaign.

With expectations high after his stellar England Lions tour of South Africa, a return of two fifties from his first 20 Championship innings was one reason why Hampshire's season was one of struggle for the most part.

Vince scored more than half his Championship runs in the last five matches and deserves much credit, as captain, for the three wins and two draws in the last six matches. 7/10

BRAD WHEAL

Spotted by Hampshire coach Dale Benkenstein playing for Natal Under-19s in December, the 18 year-old has shown the potential to become a key player for Hampshire in the next few years.

His eight Championship wickets at 49 apiece included 4-101 at the home of cricket when he played against Middlesex at Lord's. Plans to qualify for England by residency over the next seven years. 6/10

ADAM WHEATER

The least productive, third season of his Hampshire career in the LV County Championship. But only just and hardly surprising given it was his first experience of the first division.

His 99-ball 111 against Sussex at Hove in June was match-winning and, as it turned out, ensured that Hampshire's season went to the final day.

He boasted the best strike rate (138) of Hampshire's top four T20 run scorers and scored most of his 50-over runs in one innings – another match-winning 111, against Lancashire, in the Royal London One-Day Cup. 7/10

CHRIS WOOD

Now very much a limited-overs specialist, he made only one appearance in the LV County Championship – his fewest since his 2010 debut.

Hampshire's most effective seamer in the T20 Blast, his 18 wickets at 26.33 included a career-best 4-16 against Glamorgan at Cardiff.

But the most memorable game of his season was the T20 quarter-final win at Worcester. After dismissing Moeen Ali, he produced a sensational run out at short extra cover before being struck in the face – the incident that prompted the game's abandonment and Hampshire's win on Duckworth-Lewis. 6/10

HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



HAMPSHIRE CRICKET RESULTS 2015

April

12-15 Sussex (h) Championship: Sussex 444 (D Briggs 4-74) & 164 (J Tomlinson 4-37, D Briggs 3-27), Hampshire 231 (S Ervine 66 no, C Wood 48) & 285 (M Carberry 79). Hampshire lost by 79 runs.

19-22 Warwickshire (a) Championship: Hampshire 319 (A Wheater 74, J Adams 53) & 339 (S Ervine 102, M Carberry 81), Warwickshire 280 (J Tomlinson 3-53) & 244-5. Match drawn.

26-29 Nottinghamshire (h) Championship: Nottinghamshire 371 (G Berg 3-88, A Adams 3-93) & 296-4, Hampshire 276 (J Adams 61) & 29-0. Match drawn.

May

10-13 Yorkshire (Headingley) Championship: Yorkshire 370 (J Tomlinson 4-86) & 304-4, Hampshire 227 (M Carberry, 97) & 143 (W Smith 64no). Hampshire lost by 305 runs.

15 Essex (h) T20: Hampshire 173-4 (J Adams 55no) Essex 156 (Yasir Arafat 3-27). Hampshire won by 17 runs.

17-20 Middlesex (h) Championship: Hampshire 413 (W Smith 93, M Carberry 67, J Adams 61, G Berg 50) & 185-5 (M Carberry 57), Middlesex 382 (F Edwards 4-100). Drawn.

22 Kent (h), T20: Hampshire 172-6 (J Vince 66, Kent 178-5. Hampshire lost by 5 wickets.

29 Glamorgan (Swalec), T20: Hampshire 148-8 (S Ervine 49), Glamorgan 127 (C Wood 4-16). Hampshire won by 21 runs.

31-3 Worcester (h) Championship: Hampshire 222 (J Adams 48) & 245-6 (W Smith 64no, A Wheater 52, J Adams 47), Worcestershire 403-5. Drawn.

June

4 Middlesex (h) T20: Hampshire 172-3 (O Shah 58no, M Carberry 57), Middlesex 153-6, Hampshire won by 19 runs.

5 Somerset (Taunton) T20: Hampshire 167-3 (J Vince 64no), Somerset 173-2. Hampshire lost by 8 wickets.

7-10 Sussex (Hove) Championship: Sussex 251 (G Berg 4-67) & 266 (F Edwards 5-58), Hampshire 392 (A Wheater 111, G Berg 99) & 126-4 (S Terry 62no). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

12 Kent (Canterbury) T20: Kent 183-5, Hampshire 187-4 (J Vince 99no) Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

18 Middlesex (Lords) T20: Hampshire 199-5 (M Carberry 72, O Shah 64), Middlesex 178, Hampshire won by 21 runs.

19 Sussex (h) T20: Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 41), Sussex 158-3. Hampshire lost by seven wickets.

21 Somerset (h) Championship: Somerset 346 (G Berg 4-64) & 64-1, Hampshire 147 & 262 (G Berg 86). Hampshire lost by 9 wickets.

26 Essex (Chelmsford) T20: Essex 212-5, Hampshire 134. Hampshire lost by 78 runs.

28-1 Middlesex (Lord's) Championship: Hampshire 176 (J Gatting 64) & 227 (S Terry 52, A Wheater 50) Middlesex 330 (B Wheat 4-10) 77-1. Hampshire lost by 9 wickets.

July

3 Glamorgan (h) T20: Glamorgan 181-7 (Berg 3-34), Hampshire 158-6 (M Carberry 70). Hampshire lost by 23 runs.

6-9 Worcestershire (New Road)



Michael Carberry is Hampshire's top Championship scorer this season.



Fidel Edwards took six wickets in the first innings at Notts this week

Championship: Worcestershire 478 (J Bird 4-164, Hampshire 183 (J Vince 56, W Smith 51no) & 262 (J Gatting 59), Hampshire lost by an innings and 33 runs.

10 Surrey (h) T20: Hampshire 186-5 (A Wheater 78), Surrey 157-9 (D Briggs 3-21). Hampshire won by 29 runs.

14 Gloucestershire (Cheltenham) T20: Hampshire 116, Gloucestershire 117-

5. Hampshire lost by 5 wickets.

17 Sussex (Hove) T20: Hampshire 204-3 (J Vince 90, A Wheater 51), Sussex 200-6 (C Wood 3-40).

Hampshire won by four runs.

19 Durham (h) Championship: Durham 421 (L Dawson 3-70, J Bird 3-105) & 190-4 (M Crane 4-72), Hampshire 307 (W Smith 85, M Carberry 73) & 179-7

(L McManus 53no). Match drawn.

23 Somerset (h), T20: Hampshire 143-7 (M Carberry 57), Somerset 137-8 (Yasir Arafat 4-37). Hampshire won by six runs.

27 Sussex (h), Royal London Cup: Hampshire 343-6 (J Vince 103, L Dawson 73), Sussex 256 (L Dawson 6-47). Hampshire won by 87 runs.

30 Kent (Canterbury), Royal London Cup: Hampshire 233 (M Carberry 61), Kent 236-5 (F Edwards 3-47). Hampshire lost by five wickets.

August

1 Middlesex (h), Royal London Cup: Middlesex 117 (M Crane 4-30, F Edwards 3-32), Hampshire 121-0 (M Carberry 66no, J Adams 53no). Hampshire won by 10 wickets.

2 Glamorgan (Cardiff), Royal London Cup: Glamorgan 182 (L Dawson 3-21), Hampshire 26-0. Match abandoned. Hampshire won on disqualification.

4 Essex (h), Royal London Cup: Hampshire 209 (L Dawson 85, W Smith 63), Essex 210-4. Hampshire won by six wickets.

5 Warwickshire (Edgbaston), Royal London Cup: Hampshire 280 (L Dawson 67, W Smith 65), Warwickshire 184-9 (L Dawson 3-34). Hampshire won by 23 runs (D/L Method).

7 Warwickshire (h), Championship: Hampshire 285 (A Wheater 57) & 283-3 (J Vince 125no, M Carberry 91), Warwickshire 125 (F Edwards 5-32, M Crane 5-36) & 227 (Edwards 4-55). Hampshire won by 216 runs.

14 Worcestershire (New Road), T20 QF: Hampshire 196-4 (J Vince 107), Worcestershire 58-2. Hampshire won by 17 runs (D/L Method).

17 Lancashire (h), Royal London Cup: Lancashire 301-4, Hampshire 272 (A Wheater 111, J Adams 53, L Dawson 52). Hampshire lost by 29 runs.

19 Notts (Trent Bridge), Royal London Cup: Notts 256-3. Match abandoned.

26 Gloucestershire (Bristol), Royal London Cup QF: Hampshire 217-7 (J Adams 97, W Smith 50), Gloucestershire 218-6. Hampshire lost by 4 wickets.

September

1-4 Durham (Riverside) Championship: Durham 213 (McLaren 4-60) & 200 (Edwards 4-43), Hampshire 251 & 166-3 (Vince 76no). Hampshire won by seven wickets.

9-12 Somerset (Taunton) Championship:

Hampshire 240 (Vince 60, Carberry 59) & 411-4 (Adams 136, Vince 77), Somerset 630-9 (Trescothick 153, Abell 131, Cooper 118). Draw.

14-17 Yorkshire (Ageas Bowl), Championship: Hampshire 400-9 declared (Dawson 140) & forfeit, Yorkshire 97-4 declared & 305-5 (Gale 125, Edwards 3-74). Yorkshire won by five wickets.

22-25 Notts (Trent Bridge), Championship: Notts 340 (Edwards 6-88) & 185 (F Edwards 4-57), Hampshire 326 (G Berg 72, L Dawson 69, R McLaren 52) & 200-2 (M Carberry 84no, J Adams 70). Hampshire won by eight wickets.

HEADING HERE

JIMMY Adams was Hampshire's leading run-scorer in the Royal London Cup this year.

The former captain and all-rounder Liam Dawson were the only two batsmen at the Ageas Bowl to score over 200 runs in the tournament.

Hampshire's hopes of reaching a Lord's final for the first time since 2011 were ended at the quarter final stage by eventual winners Gloucestershire.

Hampshire Batting Royal London Cup 2015

J Adams 361 at 60.16
L Dawson 324 at 64.80
M Carberry 191 at 31.83
W Smith 183 at 45.75
A Wheater 172 at 28.66
J Vince 162 at 27.00
G Berg 73 at 24.33
C Wood 66 at 22.00
J Gatting 42 at 14.00
Y Arafat 31 at 31.00
M Crane 18 at 9.00
S Ervine 16 at 8.00
F Edwards 9 at 3.00
JM Bird 1

Hampshire Bowling Royal London Cup 2015

LA Dawson 1337 at 22.46
CP Wood 10-312 at 31.20
FH Edwards 8-295 at 36.87
Yasir Arafat 5-220 at 44.00
JM Bird 4-64 at 16.00
WR Smith 3-95 at 31.66
DR Briggs 2-125 at 62.50
SM Ervine 0-9

Batting Royal London Cup 2015

M Klinger (Glos) 531 at 106.20
SM Davies (Surrey) 509 at 56.55
KC Sangakkara (Surrey) 489 at 61.12
JJ Roy (Surrey) 411 at 45.66
DJ Malan (Midx) 406 at 67.66
CA Ingram (Glam) 405 at 81.00
JWA Taylor (Nottst) 401 at 66.83
AD Hales (Notts) 401 at 44.55
MH Wessels (Notts) 396 at 44.00
WJ Durston (Derby) 380 at 47.50
GH Roderick (Glos) 373 at 37.30
RJ Burns (Surrey) 364 at 52.00
JHK Adams (Hants) 361 at 60.16
TLV Cooper (Som) 359 at 59.83
MD Stoneman (Dur) 349 at 43.62
GO Jones (Glos) 344 at 43.00
NRT Gubbins (Middx) 339 at 56.50
LA Dawson (Hants) 324 at 64.80
JJ Cobb (North) 318 at 45.42
WL Madsen (Derby) 315 at 45.00

Bowling Royal London Cup 2015

RJV Topley (Essex) 20-359 at 17.95
JW Dernbach (Surrey) 19-423 at 22.26
JW Hastings (Dur) 18-278 at 15.44
DA Payne (Gs) 17-537 at 31.58
MT Coles (Kent) 16-304 at 19.00
JE Burke (Sy) 16-321 at 20.06
OJ Hannon-Dalby (Wk) 15 at 17.07
LA Dawson (Ham) 15 at 22.46
ME Claydon (Kent) 15 at 24.26
BAC Howell (Gs) 15 at 28.00
JK Fuller (Gs) 15 at 29.86
SM Curran (Sy) 15 at 30.80
TK Curran (Sy) 15 at 31.26
SA Patterson (Yor) 13 at 19.84
SR Patel (Nt) 13 at 22.07

Non league FOOTBALL



Stags disband youth team as boss moves to rivals

AFC Totton have disbanded their under-18s for one season following the departure of manager Shawn Kitcher, who is now with neighbours Totton & Eling.

Several players left and the club had to pull out of the FA Youth Cup, having been due to play at Bournemouth Poppies in the first qualifying round.

"We've kept the players we wanted, like Jack Attrill, Matty Brewer, Keenan New and Jake Rawkins, and we'll rebuild for next season," said first-team boss Steve Hollick.

"We've still got the under-16s, who will be our under-18s next season, and we've got under-eights, nines and 10s."

"Hopefully we'll get under-sevens next year and go right through from there to the first team."

Former Eastleigh reserves, Romsey and Totton & Eling boss Wayne Mew, left, has taken charge of Totton's reserves following Rich Hayter's departure to Brockenhurst.

Stags manager has only high praise for stalwart attacker

'His attitude sets an example for all of the Totton side'

AFC TOTTON have welcomed in plenty of new players this season.

But it's one of their more familiar faces, Nathaniel Sherborne, who has been the star of the show so far.

Now in his ninth season with the Testwood Stadium club, 'Sherbs' played a key role in the Stags' ascent from the Wessex Premier under Stuart Ritchie and has stuck with the club through good times and bad in the Southern League, *writes Wendy Gee*.

He suffered an horrific broken leg which ruled him out for the 2012/13 season and was injured again at the start of the 2013/14 campaign.

But after a long rehabilitation, he got back in the groove and is once again looking like the player who scored live on ITV in Totton's FA Cup second round tie against Bristol Rovers in 2011.

"Sherbs has been doing really well lately, including the latter part of last season," said Stags boss Steve Hollick.

"The way he conducts himself and his professionalism sets an example for everyone."

"He's really good around the young lads and Craig Feeney is learning a lot from him."

"He does whatever we ask him to do, be that playing on the right of a front three or right of midfield, and he's a credit to this football club."

"Even when he came back in pre-season and we re-signed him, it was probably the easiest signing we made."

"There are no airs and graces about Sherbs, he just wants to play for the club."

"Everything was positive in the summer and he's taken that into the new season."

"He's starting to get back to his best."

And Hollick laughed: "Sherbs is after a testimonial next year so we'll be trying to get him on a two-year deal!"

Sherborne rounded off the scoring last Saturday as Totton followed up their opening win of the season over Yate with a 5-0 battering of Bridgwater.



Totton's Nathaniel Sherborne.

ter. With just seconds gone, fit-again wideman Mike Gosney was floored in the area and got up to convert the penalty.

That lead was doubled on 23 minutes when Feeney picked up on a loose ball before darting into the box and curling a sublime effort into the far, top corner.

With Totton making all the running they got a third just before half-time. Feeney was again the scorer, holding off his marker in the chase for a

long ball and finishing confidently.

Stags' keeper Steve Mowthorpe pulled off a couple of saves to protect the lead and, with ten minutes to go, Totton's on-loan AFC Bournemouth defender, Jack Simpson, made it 4-0 when he met Jake Burgess's cross with a glancing header.

Bridgwater had a chance to hit back when Mowthorpe conceded a penalty, but Josh Wadham's kick went embarrassingly wide.

That spurred Totton on for a fifth

when Sherborne got on the end of Gosney's corner.

Relieved manager Hollick said: "It takes the pressure off a bit."

"Knowing the squad we've got, maybe we thought the start of the season was going to be easier than it was, but there's always been confidence in the camp and hopefully we can go on from here."

"It could have been double figures."

"We missed some good chances on top of those we scored."

Leading scorers

NON LEAGUE TOP SCORERS 2015/16

Conference National

- 10 Emmanuel (Bromley)
- 8 Burrow (FC Halifax)
- 8 Dennis (Macclesfield)
- 8 Rhead (Lincoln City)
- 7 Bogle (Grimsby)
- 7 Bowman (Gateshead)
- 7 Cook (Barrow)
- 7 Goddard (Woking)
- 7 Amon (Grimsby)
- 6 O'Connor (Forest Green)
- 6 Walker (Aldershot)
- 6 Brodie (Aldershot)
- 5 Constable (Eastleigh)
- 5 Deverdics (Dover)
- 5 Gray (Wrexham)
- 5 Hurst (Torquay)
- 5 Wright (Cheltenham)

Southern League

Premier

- 11 Tom Meehan (St Neots)
- 7 Daniel Dubidat (Redditch)
- 7 Andy Sandell (Chipping)
- 6 Edwin Ahenkorah (Stratford)
- 6 Johnny McNamara (Hitchin)

Southern League

Division 1 S & W

- 11 Warren Bentley (Winchester)
- 9 Ben Whitehead (Wantage)
- 9 Mark Gamble (Wimborne)
- 7 Lewis Powell (Mangotsfield)
- 7 Ethan Moore (Cinderford)
- 6 Jordan Rogers (Taunton)
- 5 Jamie Lyons (Larkhall)
- 5 Calum McNish (North Leigh)
- 5 Jake Lee (Shortwood)
- 5 Carl Preston (Wimborne)

Hampshire Premier League

- 12 Tom Sands (Otterbourne)
- 11 Ricky Bull (Hamble Club)
- James Thomson (Hamble Club)
- 10 Alex Miry (Liss Athletic)
- 8 Tyler Moret (Baffins Milton Rovers)
- 8 Tom Mason (Bush Hill)
- 7 Coby Wilson (Hamble Club)
- 7 Babucar Bojang (QK Southampton)
- 7 Liam Crook (Hamble Club)
- 7 Darren Ferguson (Clanfield)
- 6 Steve Hall (Otterbourne)
- 6 Matt Andrews (Liss Athletic)
- 6 Dan Cox (Hamble Club)
- 6 Ashley Hewer (Otterbourne)
- 6 Tom Ashton (Otterbourne)
- 6 Dan Smith (Bush Hill)
- 6 Richie McCann (Headley)
- 6 Sami Bidchar (Paulsgrove)
- 6 Aiden Reed (Golden Common)
- 6 Perry Harding (Bush Hill)

Division One

- 12 Steve Brown (Four Marks)
- 8 Andy Brown (Hayling)
- 6 Shane Lock (Andover Lions)
- 6 Shane Vidler (Broughton)
- 5 Peter Sherlock (Burridge)
- 5 Kieran Carter (Hayling)
- 5 Zach Neve (Andover Lions)
- 5 Liam McKinley (Lyndhurst)



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SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Barclays Premier League

Leicester	2	Arsenal	5
Vardy 13, 89		Walcott 18	
		Sanchez 33, 57, 81	
HT 1-2		Giroud 90	Att 32, 047
Liverpool	3	A. Villa	2
Miller 2		Gestede 66, 71	
Sturridge 59, 67			
HT 1-0			Att 44, 228
Man Utd	3	Sunderland	0
Depay 45			
Pooley 46			
Moore 49			
HT 1-0			
Newcastle	L	Chelsea	L
HT L-1			
SAINTS	3	Swansea	1
van Dijk 11		Sigurdsson 83 pen	
Tadic 54			
Mane 61			
HT 1-0			Att 30, 704
Stoke	2	CHERRIES	1
Walters 32		Gosling 76	
Diouf 83			
HT 1-0			Att 27, 742
Tottenham Hotspur	4	Man City	1
Dier 45		De Bruyne 25	
Alderweireld 50			
Kane 51			
Lamela 79			
HT 1-1			Att 35, 867
West Ham	2	Norwich	2
Sakho 33		Brady 9	
Kouyate 90		Redmond 83	
HT 1-1			Att 34, 857

Bradford

0

Peterboro

2

Angol 56
Forrester 57
Att 17, 920

HT 0-0
Bury

L. Clarke 19, 51 pen
HT 1-0

Chesterfield

1

Burton Albion

2

Beaven 46

Binnom-Wilson 49

Att 6, 752

Fleetwood Town

1

Port Vale

2

Daniel 56

Foley 65 pen

Millwall

3

Rochdale

1

Vincenti 43

HT 2-1

Oldham

1

Wigan

1

Power 34

Att 5, 482

Sheff Utd

3

Doncaster

1

Stewart 25

HT 2-1

Shrewsbry

2

Blackpool

0

HT 0-0

Southend

2

Scunthorpe

1

McSheffrey 8

Timlin 36

Coker 75

HT 1-1

Swindon

1

Colchester

2

Moncur 3

Harriott 42

HT 1-2

Walsall

1

Crewe

1

Nugent 18

HT 1-1

Barnsley

3

De Bruyne 25

Att 5, 249

HOME

AWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Man Utd	7	3	1	0	7	1	15		4	0	1	5	4	16	
Man City	7	2	1	0	6	2	13		3	0	1	7	3	18	
West Ham	7	1	2	0	8	8	9		3	1	0	7	3	13	
Arsenal	7	1	1	1	2	2	13		4	0	1	5	13	16	
Tottenham	7	2	2	0	10	3	11		2	0	2	8	2	12	
Leicester	7	2	1	1	10	10	11		2	0	2	5	4	12	
Liverpool	7	2	1	1	5	6	11		2	1	0	7	3	11	
Everton	6	1	1	1	5	5	10		1	2	0	3	0	9	
Stoke	7	2	0	2	8	7	12		1	0	3	0	2	9	
SAINTS	7	2	0	2	8	7	12		0	3	0	2	8	7	
Crystal P	6	1	0	2	3	4	10		2	0	2	2	4	8	
Swansea	7	2	1	0	4	1	11		2	0	2	2	4	8	
Wolverhampton	6	2	1	0	5	1	12		2	0	2	2	4	8	
Walsall	7	1	1	1	5	5	12		1	1	0	7	3	10	
WBA	6	0	1	2	2	6	10		1	1	0	2	0	8	
CHERRIES	7	1	1	1	3	2	10		1	0	3	0	3	9	
Chelsea	6	1	1	1	5	4	12		1	0	2	2	4	8	
Stoke	7	1	1	2	4	5	12		0	2	1	3	4	12	
Newcastle	6	0	1	2	3	5	12		0	1	2	0	4	2	
Sunderland	7	0	1	2	2	5	12		0	1	3	4	11	7	

SkyBet Championship

Birmingham	0	Rotherham	2												
		Derbyshire 32													
		Andrew 64													
		Att 17, 307													
HT 0-1															
Bolton	2	Brighton	2												
Danns 41		Stephens 31													
Madine 90		Murphy 35													
HT 1-2		Att 13, 405													
Brentford	1	Sheff Wed	2												
Judge 77		Nuhuu 37 pen													
HT 0-1		Lucas Joao 90													
Burnley	1	Reading	2												
Darwika 67		Blackman 55													
HT 0-2		Plazion 9													
Cardiff	2	Charlton	1												
Mason 53		Ahernae-Grant 49													
Morrison 76															
HT 0-0			Att 15, 226												
Hull	1	Blackburn	1												
Hernandez 73		Rhodes 90													
HT 0-0		Att 16, 486													
Ipswich	2	Bristol C	2												
Chambers 46		Freeman 53													
Fraser 86		Kodjia 55													
HT 0-0		Att 20, 547													
M K Dons	1	Derby City	3												
Murphy 60		Johnson 53													
HT 0-0		Bent 89													
Preston	1	Wolves	1												
Johnson 10		Ince 90													
HT 1-0		Att 13, 54													
HOME	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Middlesb	8	4	0	1	5	1	21		8	2	3	0	8	6	15
Reading	9	3	2	1	5	2	15		9	2	1	3	1	5	13
Hull	9	3	2	0	8	3	11		10	3	1	2	1	7	10
Charlton	9	3	1	1	7	4	15		11	2	1	2	6	5	14
Cardiff	9	3	1	1	9	6	12		12	2	1	2	5	6	11
Burnley	9	3	1	1	9	6	12		13	2	1	2	5	6	11
Ipswich	9	2	1	2	7	7	14		14	2	1	2	5	7	13
Birmingham	9	2	1	2	7	7	14		15	2	1	2	5	7	13
Nottn For	9	1	1	2	4	5	12		16	2	1	2	5	7	13
Sheff Wed	9	2	1	1	7	6	12		17	2	1	2	5	7	13
Q.P.R.	9	1	2	1	9	8	17		18	2	1	2	5	7	12
Fulham	8	2	1	1	8	4	15		19	2	1	2	5	7	12
Leeds Utd	8	0	3	1	3	4	15		20	2	1	2	5	7	12
Huddersfield	9	1	3	1	7	5	15		21	2	1	2	5	7	12
Wolves	8	1	2	1	5	5	12		22	2	1	2	5	7	12
Charlton	9	2	1	1	6	4	15		23	2	1	2	5	7	12
Blackburn	9	1	2	1	5	3	12		24	2	1	2	5	7	12
Brentford	8	1	1	2	6	8	17		25	2	1	2	5	7	12
Rotherham	9	1	1	2	4	8	17		26	1	2	3	0	1	11
Bolton	9	1	4	0	5	4	11		27	1	2	3	0	1	11
Preston	9	0	3	2	4	6	17		28	1	2	3	0	1	11
M K Dons	9	1	0	4	3	8	17		29	1	2	3	0	1	11
Bristol C	9	0	1	3	5	10	17		30	1	2	3	0	1	11

Att 8,354

SkyBet League One

	HOME	AWAY
Brighton	2	3
Reading	3	1
Hull	2	1
Charlton	2	1
Cardiff	2	1
Burnley	2	1
W		